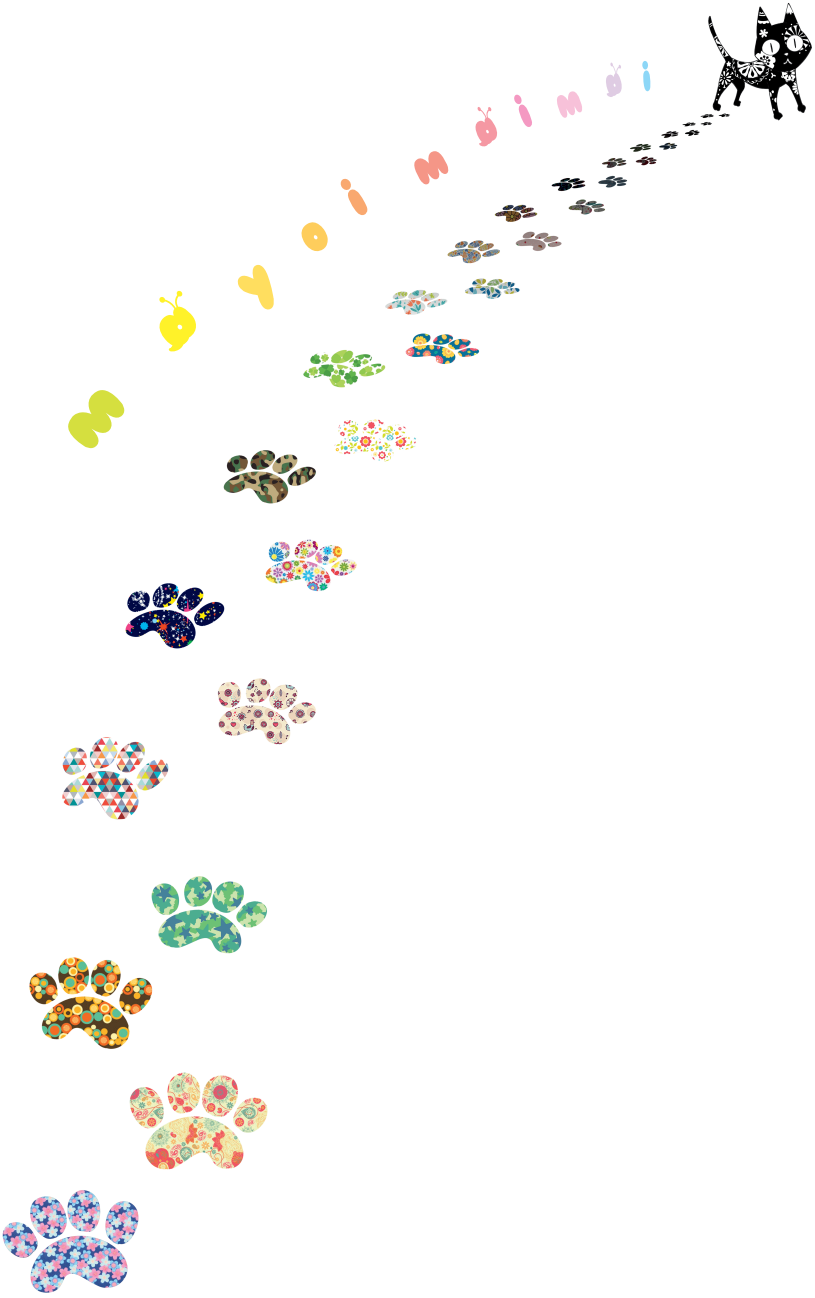
BAKEMONOGATARI
3
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN


Mdyoimdimdi

福
千万両

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

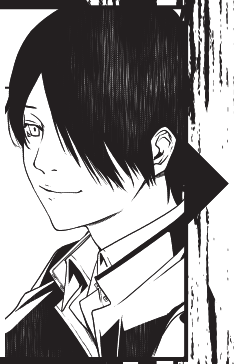
Original Character
Design: VOFAN

3

MAIN CHARACTERS

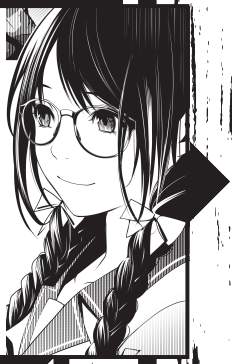
Hitagi Senjogahara

A girl whose weight was once taken away by a "crab." Thanks to Koyomi's efforts, she is now back to living a regular life.



Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire. Though he tries to help Mayoi find her way, he ends up getting lost with her.



Tsubasa Hanekawa

The infallible class president of Koyomi's class. Once bewitched by a "cat" while dealing with issues at home.

Mayoi Hachikuji

An elementary school student who Koyomi meets at a park. A "Lost Snail" who tries to visit her mother's home, but can never arrive.

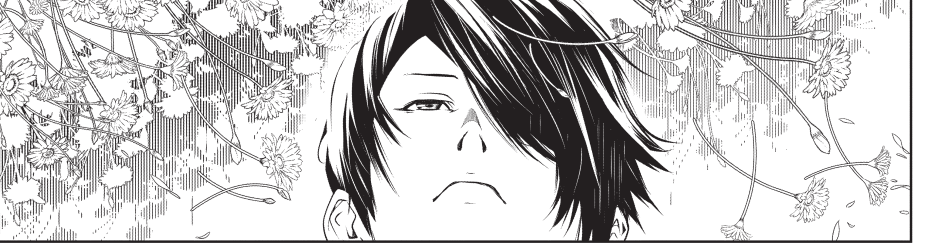
Mèmè Oshino

An expert on aberrations who lives in the ruins of a former cram school. Saved Koyomi and helped Hitagi, as well.

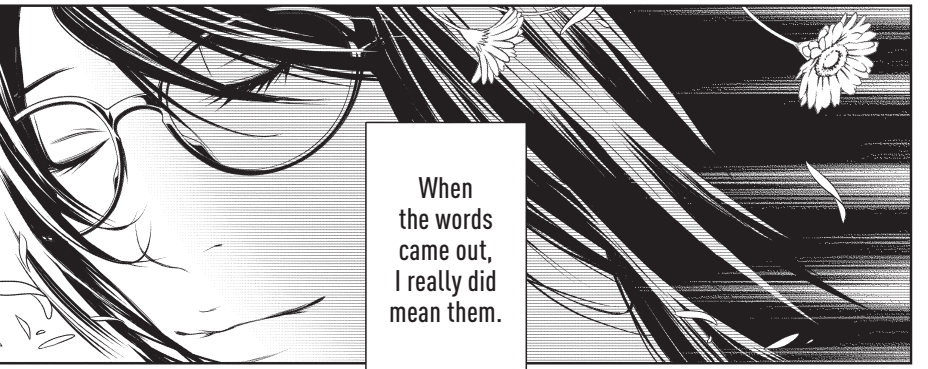
One day, Koyomi Araragi encounters a grade schooler named Mayoi Hachikuji. Try as she may to visit her mother—who she hasn't seen since her parents' divorce—the girl can never arrive at her mother's. In an attempt to save this "Lost Snail," Koyomi sends Hitagi Senjogahara to Mèmè Oshino, an expert on aberrations. As Mayoi and Koyomi wait for Mèmè and Hitagi's solution, Tsubasa Hanekawa just so happens to pass by...

Chapter 2 Mayoi Snail

BOOK DESIGN
VEIA



I'm right here.

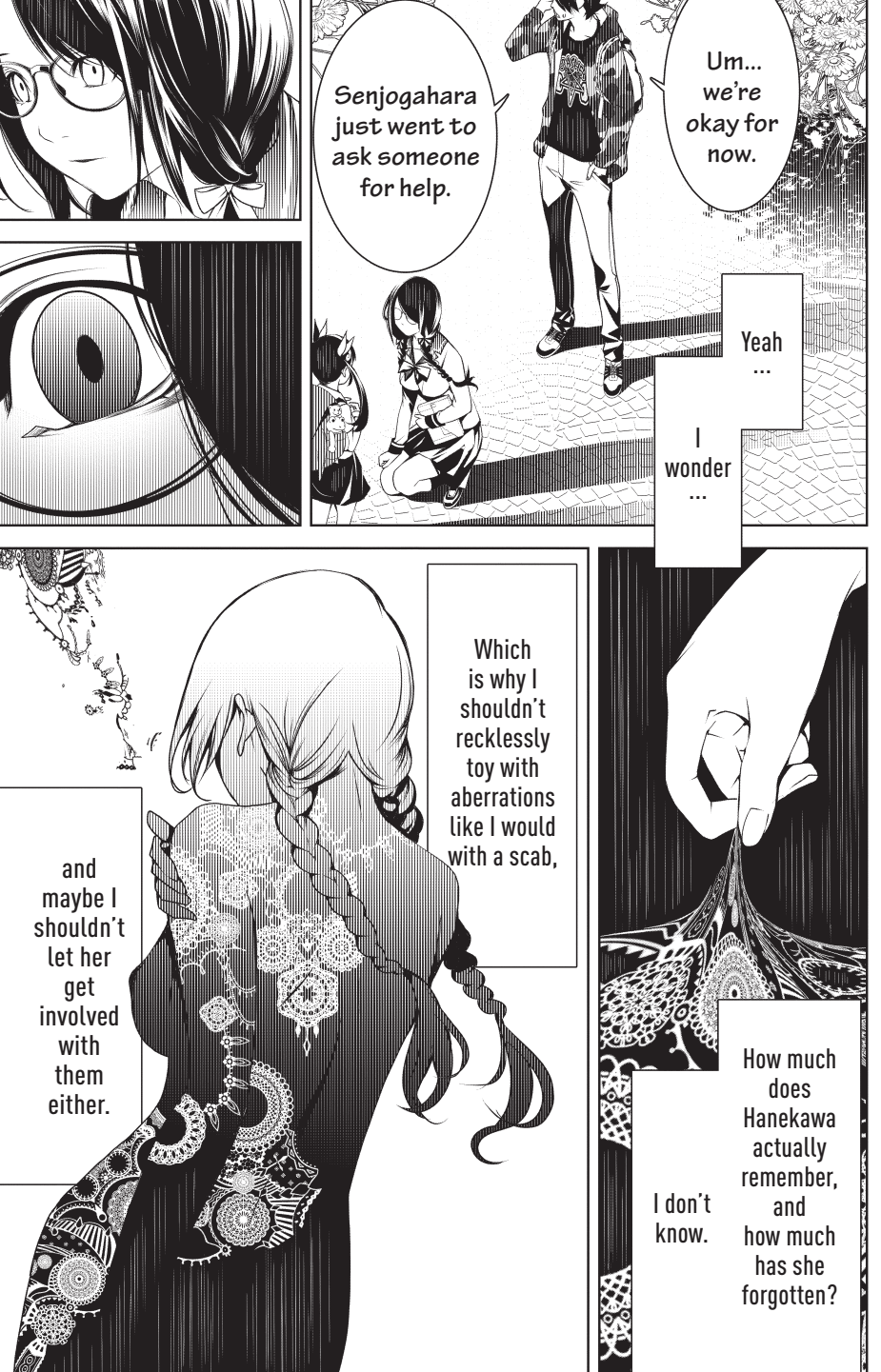


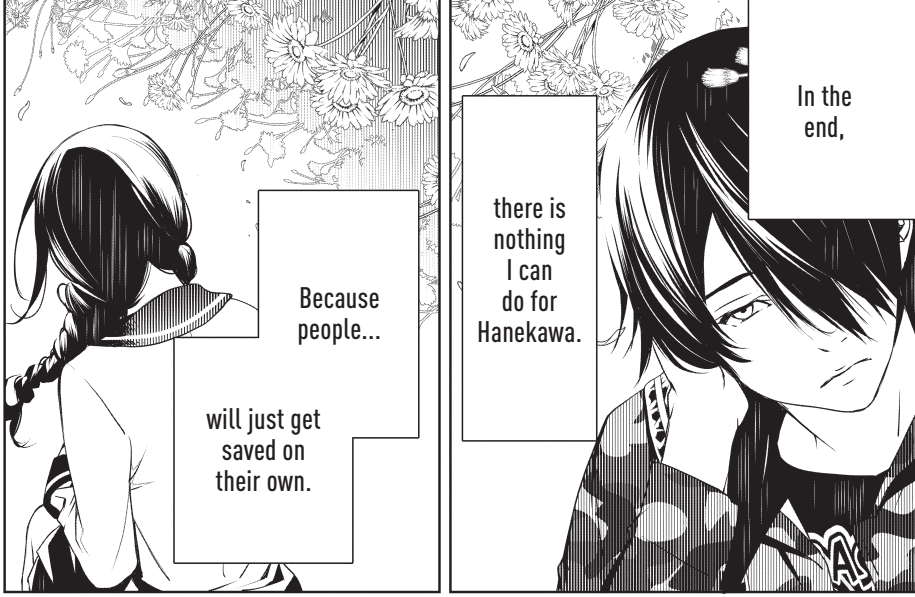
When the words came out, I really did mean them.

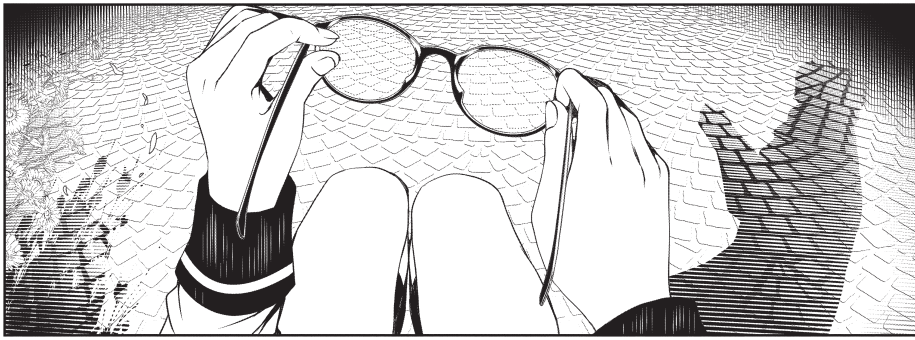
It was almost like... we were the only two people here, in this world.

A cat and a demon
writhing in the depths of a labyrinth.

SST
So,
you're lost, is that right? Where do you want to go?
I think I can show you the way.

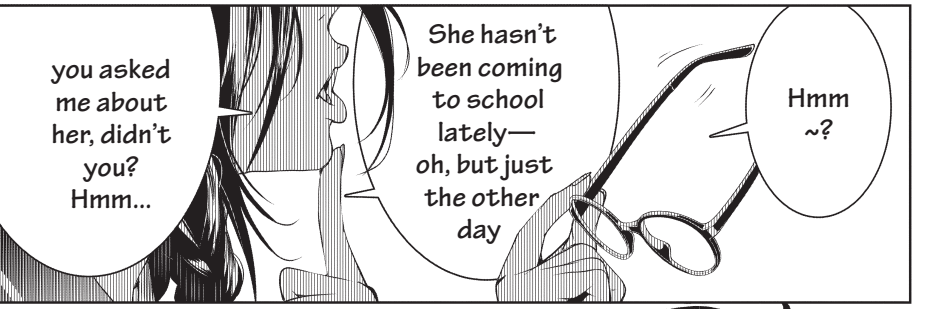

Um... we're okay for now.
Senjogahara just went to ask someone for help.
Yeah ...
I wonder ...
How much does Hanekawa actually remember, and how much has she forgotten?
I don't know.
Which is why I shouldn't recklessly toy with aberrations like I would with a scab,
and maybe I shouldn't let her get involved with them either.


Because people...
will just get saved on their own.
there is nothing I can do for Hanekawa.
In the end,

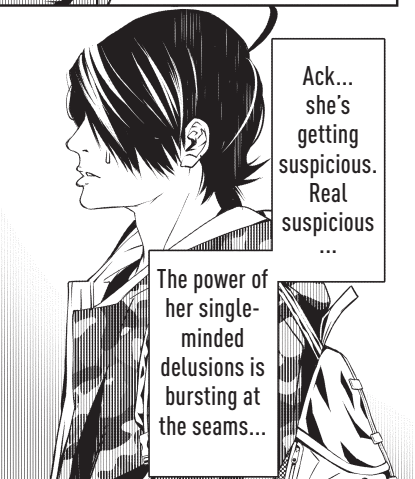


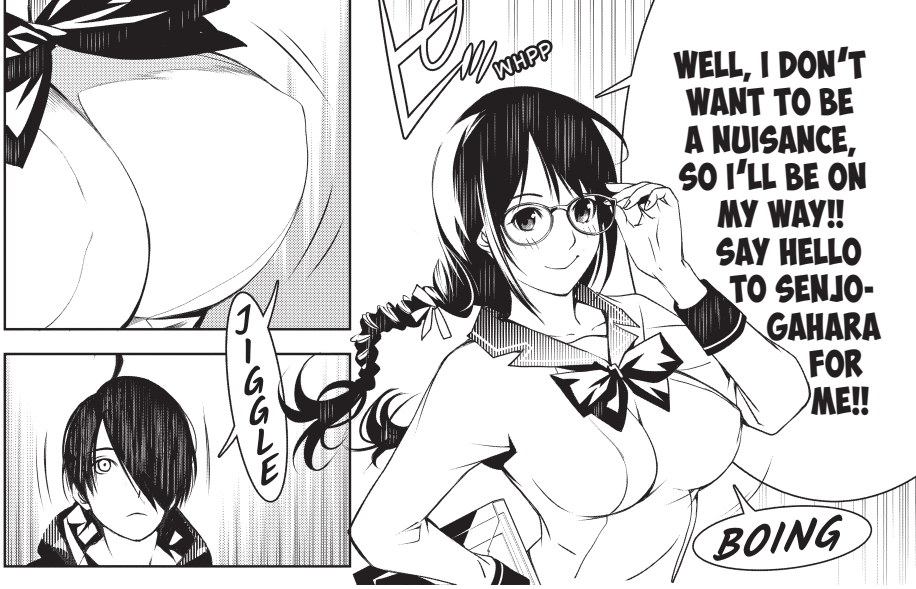
BADMP
BDMP
BMP

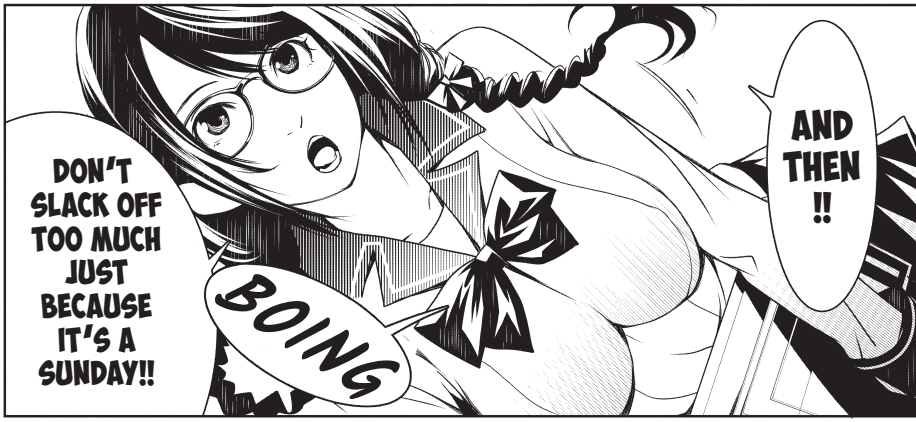
Well... she's been taking her sweet time,
but she should be back soon.
So you were with Senjo-gahara?
What? Senjogahara? Oh, I see, Araragi.


you asked me about her, didn't you? Hmm...
She hasn't been coming to school lately— oh, but just the other day
Hmm ~?

No... I'm pretty sure you're way off the mark ...
OH!! I SEE!! SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON?!

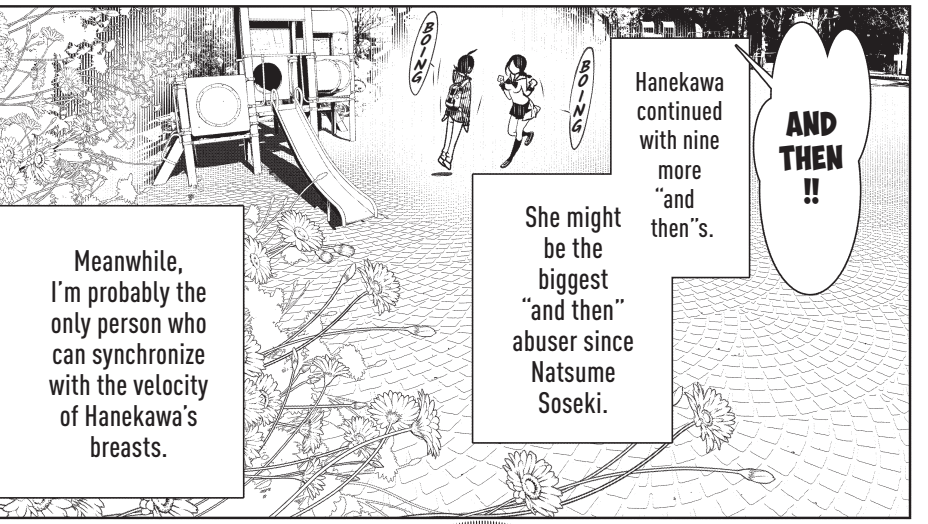

Ack... she's getting suspicious. Real suspicious ...
The power of her single-minded delusions is bursting at the seams...


WHPP
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO BE A NUISANCE, SO I'LL BE ON MY WAY!! SAY HELLO TO SENJO-GAHARA FOR ME!!
BOING
JIGGLE

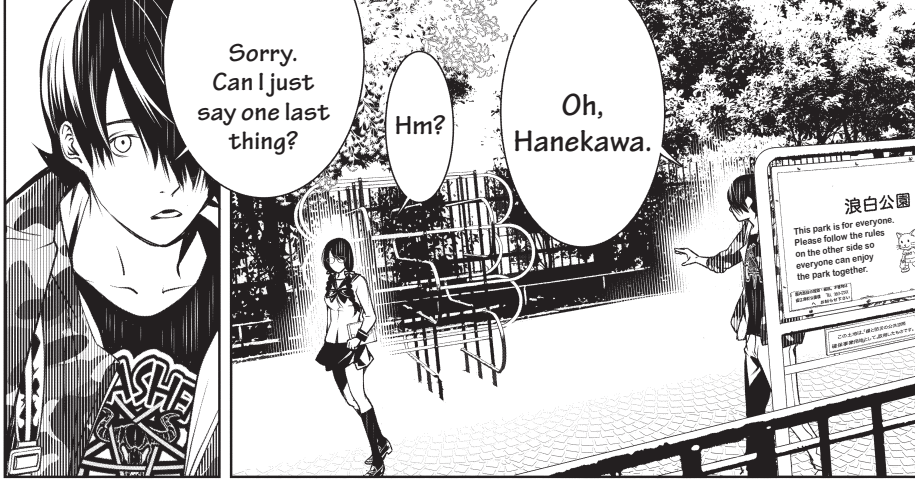

AND THEN !!
BOING
DON'T SLACK OFF TOO MUCH JUST BECAUSE IT'S A SUNDAY!!

BOING
Okay.

AND THEN!! DON'T FORGET THERE'S A HISTORY QUIZ TOMORROW.
AND THEN!! WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL !!
WE'VE GOTTA BUCKLE DOWN SOON, SO GET READY, MISTER VICE PRESIDENT! OKAY?!
BOING
BOING
BOING
Okay.
Okay.
BOING

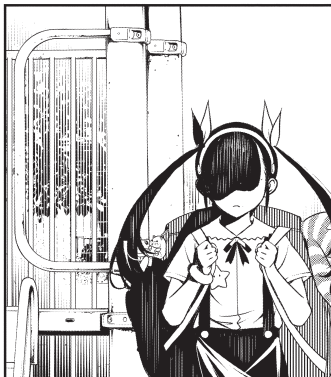

AND THEN !!
Hanekawa continued with nine more "and then"s.
She might be the biggest "and then" abuser since Natsume Soseki.
Meanwhile, I'm probably the only person who can synchronize with the velocity of Hanekawa's breasts.
BOING
BOING

Boing

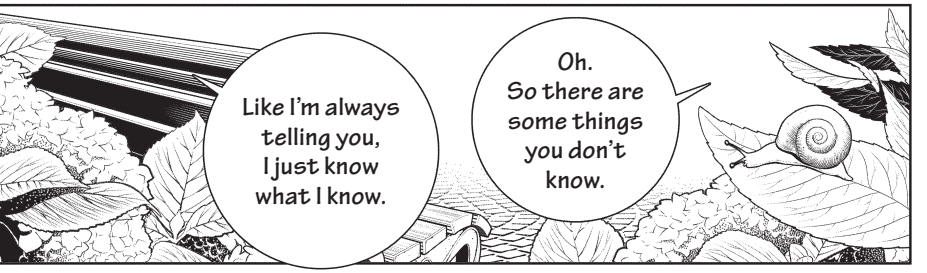

Sorry. Can I just say one last thing?
Hm?
Oh, Hanekawa.
浪白公園
This park is for everyone. Please follow the rules on the other side so everyone can enjoy the park together.

Miss Tsunade?
Hm... Ohh, in that case—

Do you know if a Miss Tsunade lives around here...?
Naoetsu Town Map

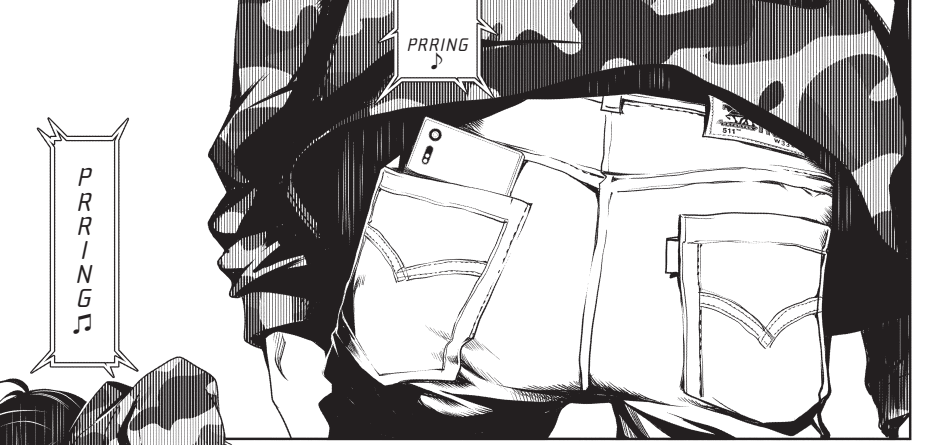


...
No.
I don't.
Hm?

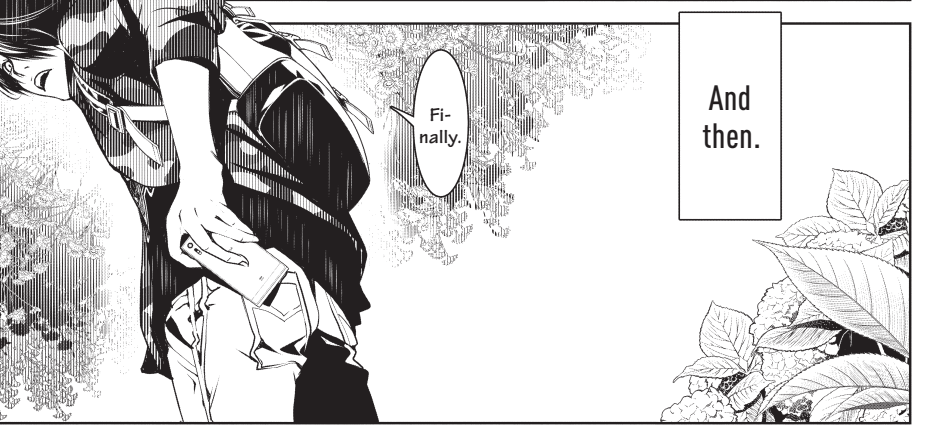

Like I'm always telling you, I just know what I know.
Oh. So there are some things you don't know.

Don't let Senjogahara worry over you too much, okay?
Ara-ragi.
Sounds like we're outta luck. Sorry, Hachikuji.
Huh?
?

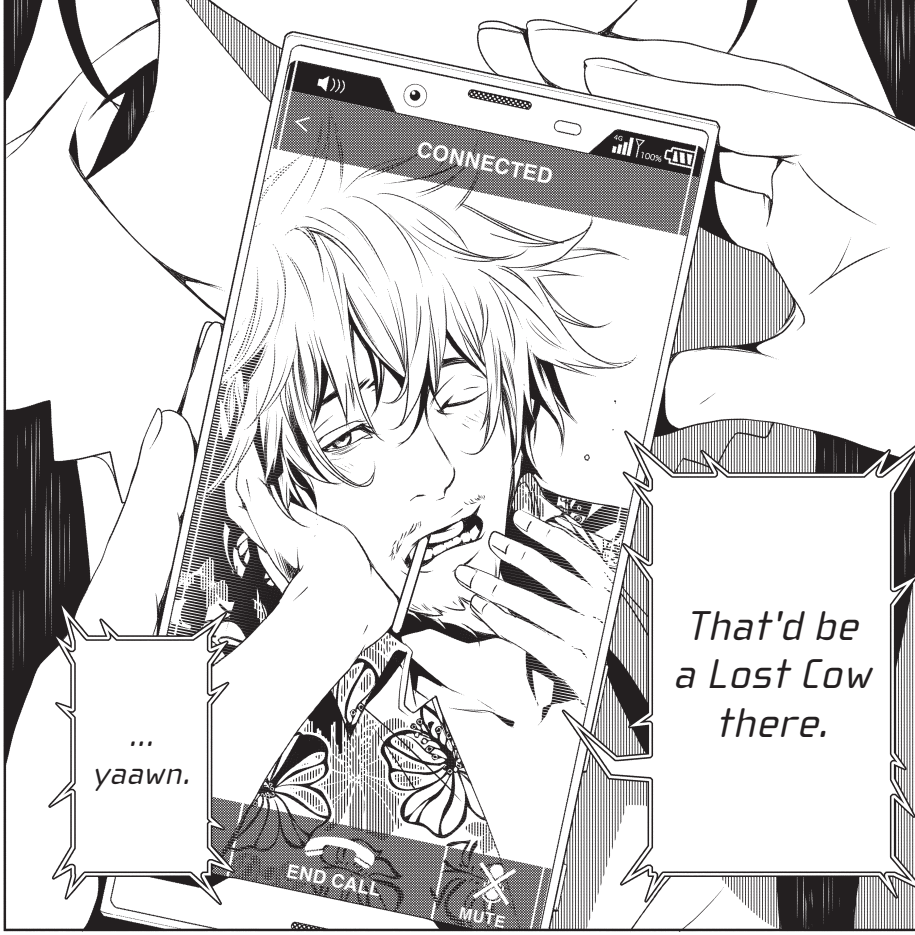
I'm always happy to, though.
I'll be going now.
At that point,
and what conclusion she had reached.
I had no idea what Hanekawa's supercomputer-class brain had noticed
Where did that come from...?
?
?


PRRING♪

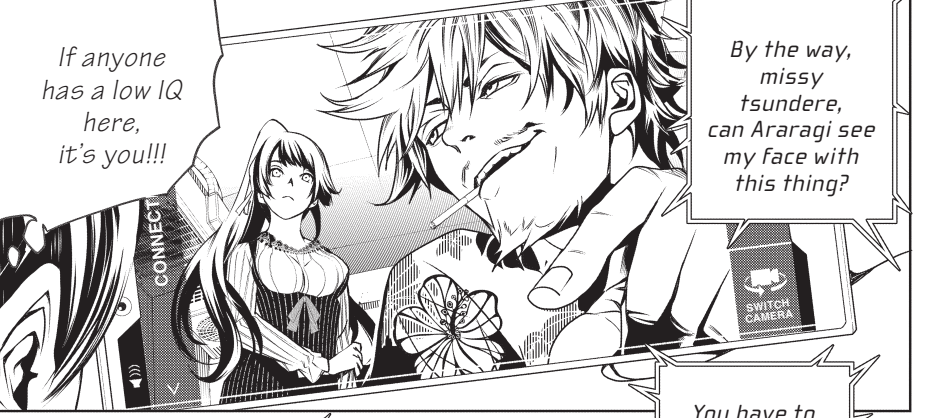
PRRING♫

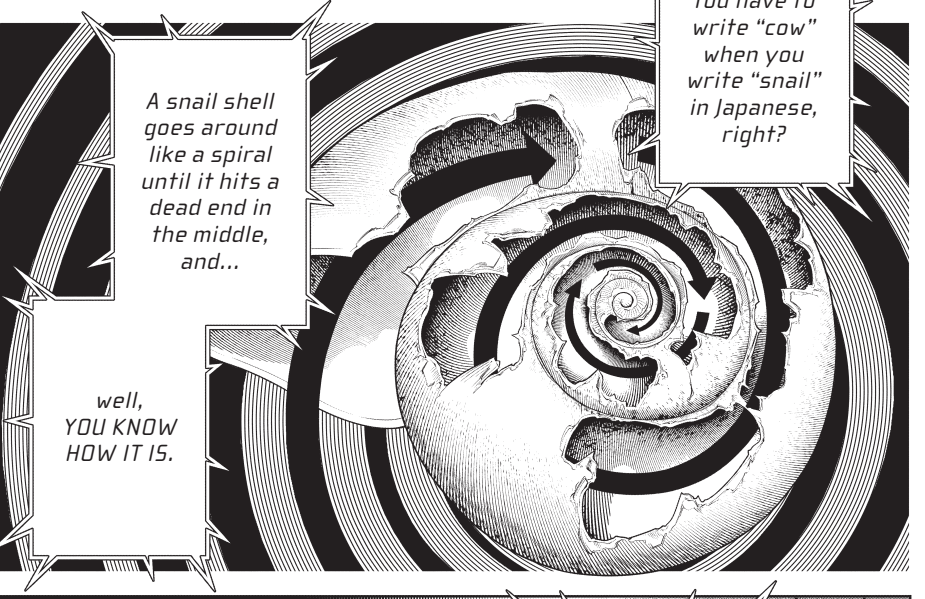

Fi-
nally.
And
then.

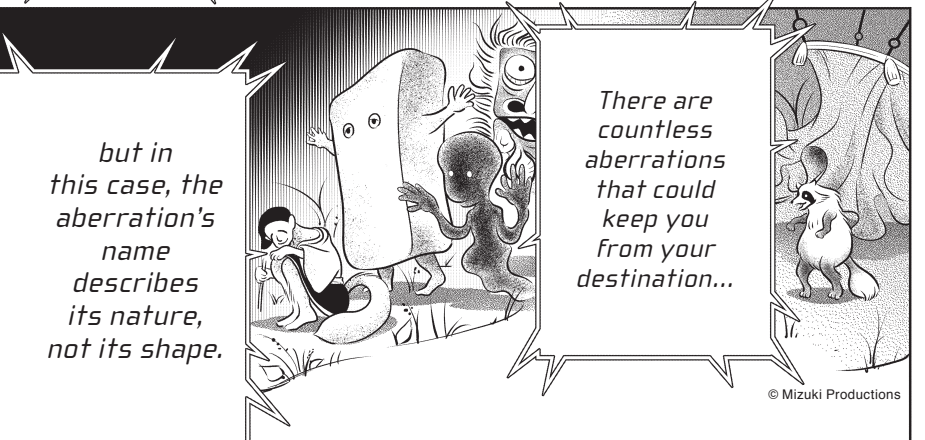
That
was the
moment
I acquired
Senjo-
gahara's
cell
number.
Sunday,
May 14,
14:15:30 p.m.


CONNECTED
END CALL
MUTE
That'd be a Lost Cow there.
... yaawn.

A cow? She's not a cow.
I said she's a snail.
Hold on, Araragi.
Do you not know how "snail" is written in Japanese?
Talk about a low IQ.

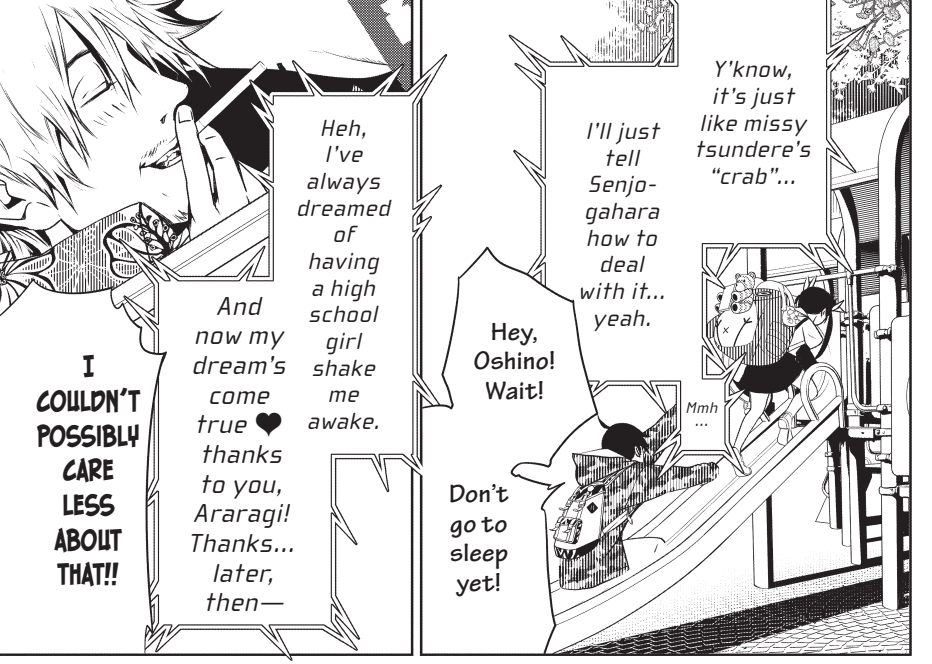


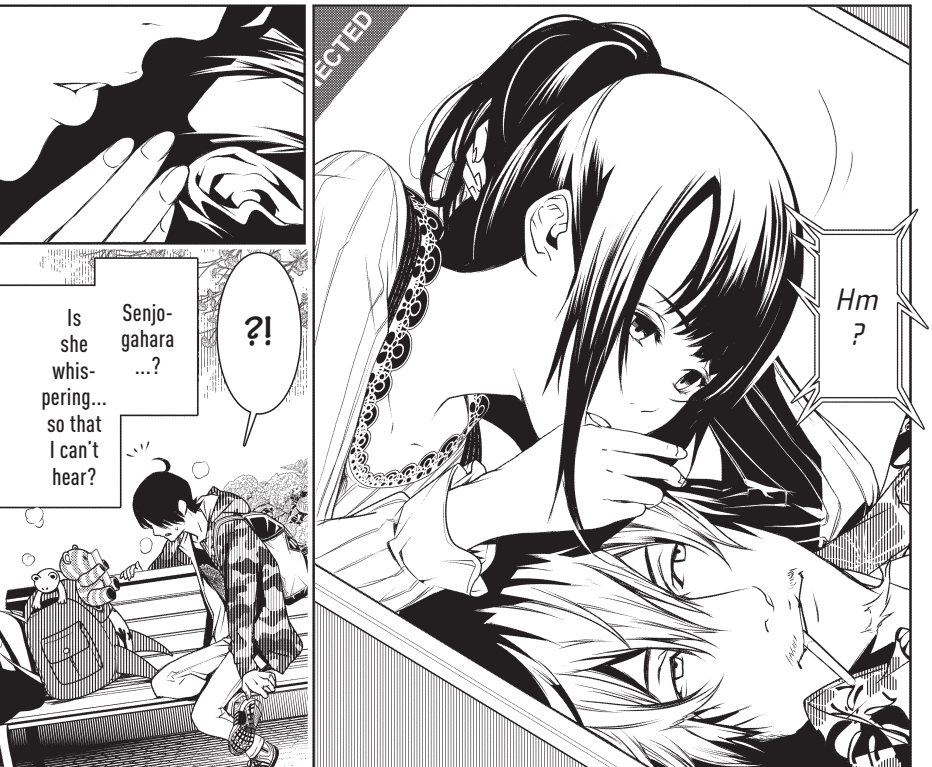




© Mizuki Productions

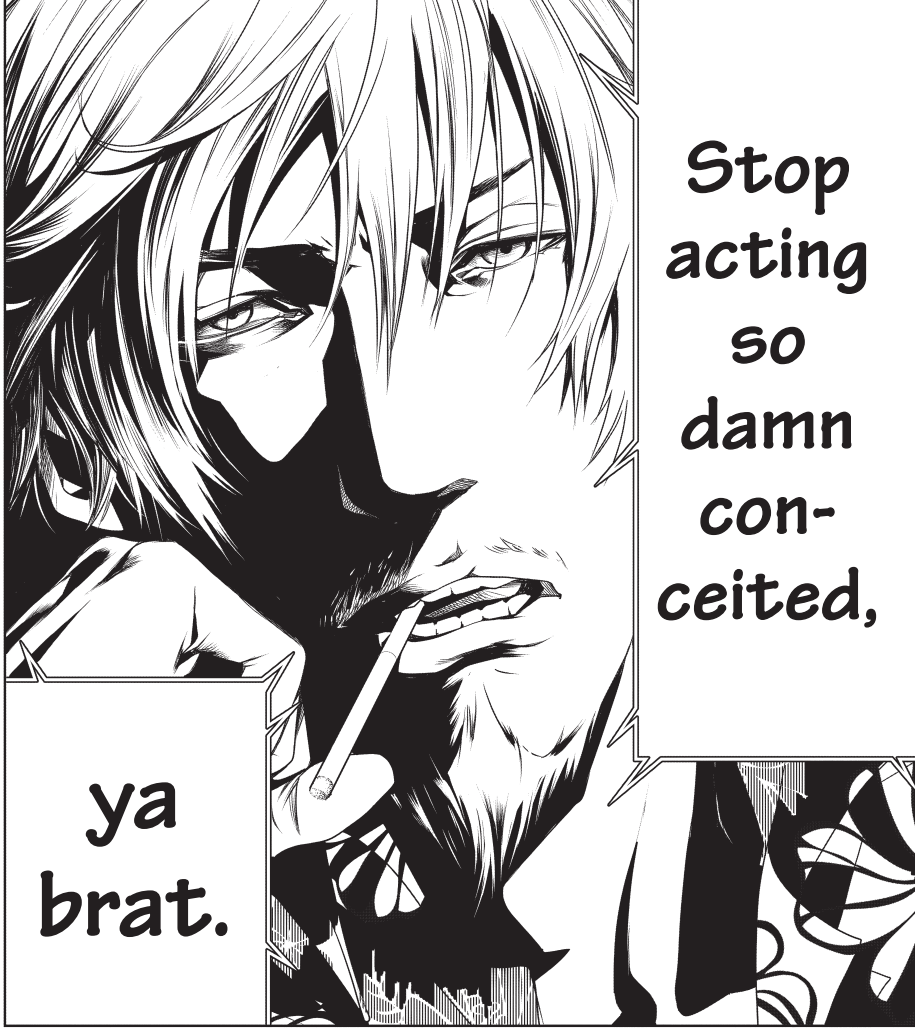
That's not how it goes?
C'mon, kid.
why act funny now...
and then someone slaps on a name, don't you?
I bet you think aberrations are like light novels—that the illustrations come first
Y'know, Araragi,
Nope. It's the other way around.
名前
Name
Names ... in other words,
phenomena — or concepts, if you will— exist first,
THEN THEIR SHAPE FORMS AFTER THAT.
They say that names are what shape nature, but in this case
nature doesn't mean "physical appearance," but "essence."
Both cows and snails "move slowly and get in the way."
... yaawn... yup... that's what it is...

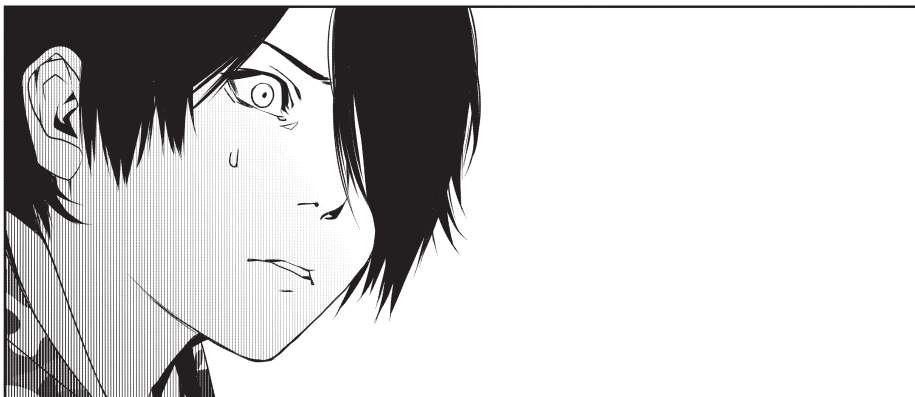

I COULDN'T POSSIBLY CARE LESS ABOUT THAT!!
And now my dream's come true ♥ thanks to you, Araragi! Thanks... later, then—
Heh, I've always dreamed of having a high school girl shake me awake.
Hey, Oshino! Wait!
Don't go to sleep yet!
I'll just tell Senjo-gahara how to deal with it... yeah.
Y'know, it's just like missy tsundere's "crab"...
Mmh ...


?!
Senjo-gahara ...?
Is she whis-pering... so that I can't hear?
LECTED
Hm ?

NNECTED
MUTE
END CALL
SWITCH CAMERA
Well, then... I see...
That must've been tough, missy tsundere.
Hm...
Oh... mhm...
CONNECTED
MUTE
END CALL
SWITCH CAMERA
Jeez ...
I can't believe it...
...
haah ...
MUTE
END CALL
SWITCH CAMERA
Anyway, you've made missy tsundere fuss over you so much... that she even feels responsible for you.
Shinobu, don't run off with the phone.
You never cease to be a real pathetic guy, Araragi ...

Huh...?!
What're you talking about...? Sure, I feel bad about dragging Senjogahara into this, but...
Huh...? Didn't Hanekawa say something like that just a second ago...?
Listen up, Araragi.
What you see and feel isn't the whole truth.


Stop acting so damn con-ceited,
ya brat.



Everything is not always how it looks.

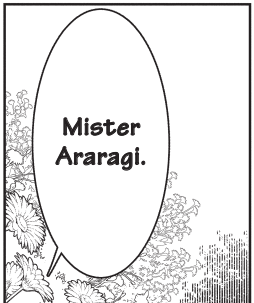
Seeing isn't always believing, you know.

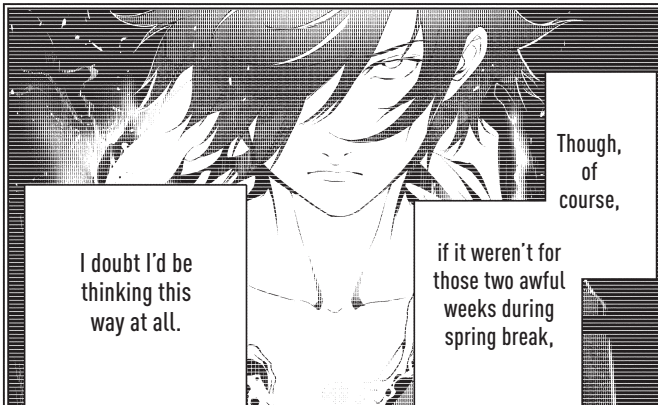
Normally, it'd be an incredible stroke of "good luck" to have a specialist like Oshino nearby when confronting an aberration like this.
Which is why you shouldn't blindly get involved with aberrations.
According to Oshino, that is the rule.
"Stop acting so damn conceited."
Untouchable
不可触
"If you don't get involved with aberrations, they won't get involved with you."
That... is the rule.
不可侵
Inviolable
As long as a rule is a rule, you shouldn't allow any exceptions.
Let them slip through your fingers and soon you'll find yourself in a sticky situation.
If you keep making exceptions, the very lines you've set in place will come crashing down.

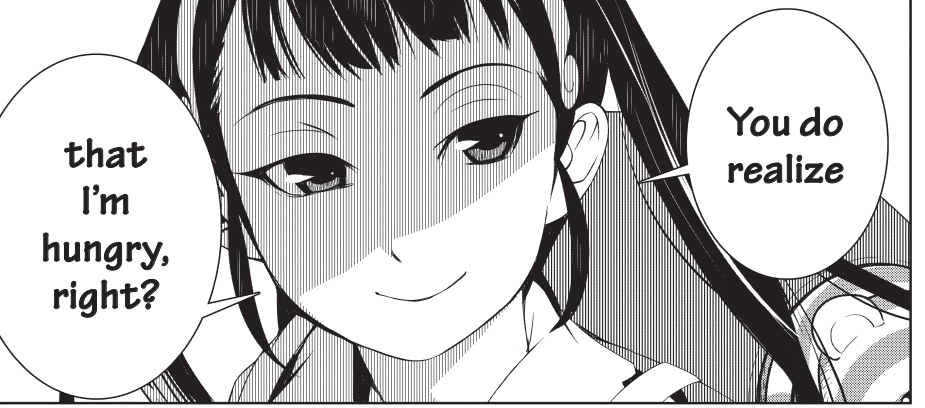
So,

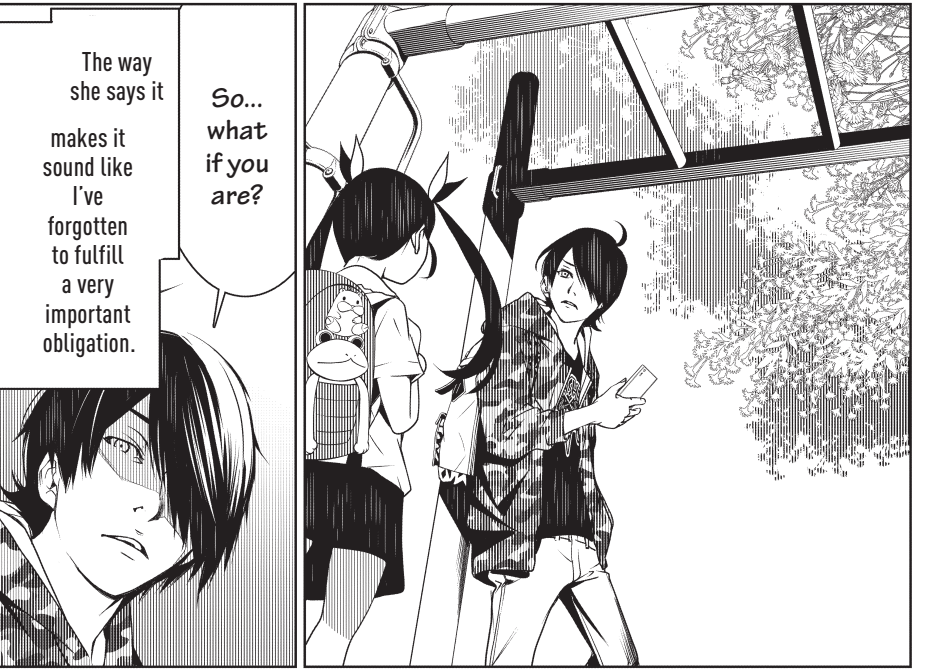
that's how it is.

isn't something I need a special reason or emotion to feel like doing, correct?
Before me stands a distressed grade schooler who is possessed by an aberration.
Saving her
BRADER


Mister Araragi.

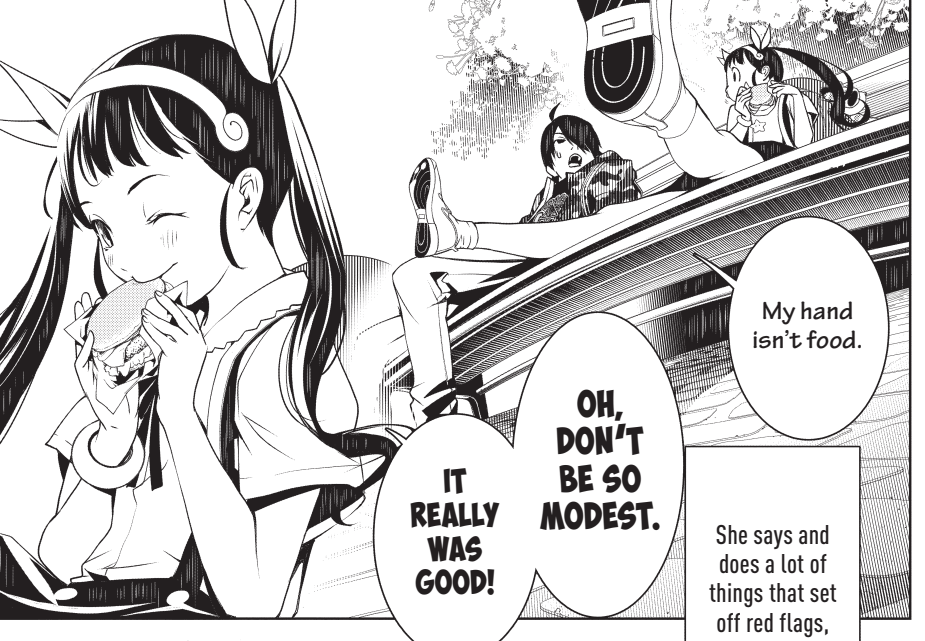

I doubt I'd be thinking this way at all.
Though, of course,
if it weren't for those two awful weeks during spring break,


You do realize
that I'm hungry, right?


The way she says it
makes it sound like I've forgotten to fulfill a very important obligation.
So... what if you are?

If there's a hungry child in front of you...
I don't think you need any special reason to—

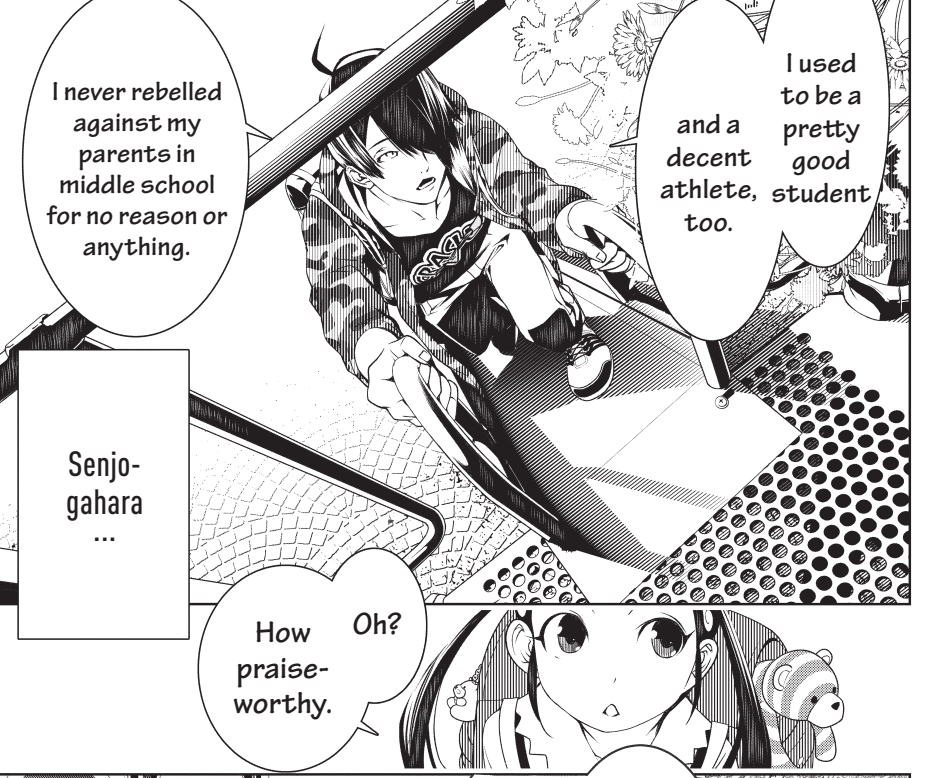
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
...Are you not having any?
MUNCH
You're not getting any more.
STARE
MUNCH
Oh, um...
I'll wait until Senjogahara gets back.
Maso Burger
Do you like hamburgers?
I LIKE ANYTHING AS LONG AS IT'S FOOD!
YOUR HAND WAS ALSO DELICIOUS, MISTER ARARAGI!♡



She says and does a lot of things that set off red flags,

but when we're just hanging like this, she really is just a cute, ordinary grade schooler.

Er, what?
IT'S "MUJINA."
from the book *Najimu*.
You know, I used to be a really good kid.
You just made it sound that way earlier... and also 'cuz you were wandering around on Mother's Day.
Huh?
Why do you ask?
... Mister Araragi... Are you not very fond of your parents?
Why is she so certain?
You're lying.
It's not a lie.
OH, IS THAT SO?
THEN LET'S SAY IT'S OKAY TO LIE.
A LITTLE TRITE LIE NEVER HURT ANYONE.
WHAT AM I, THE MAYOR OF LIAR VILLAGE?!?!

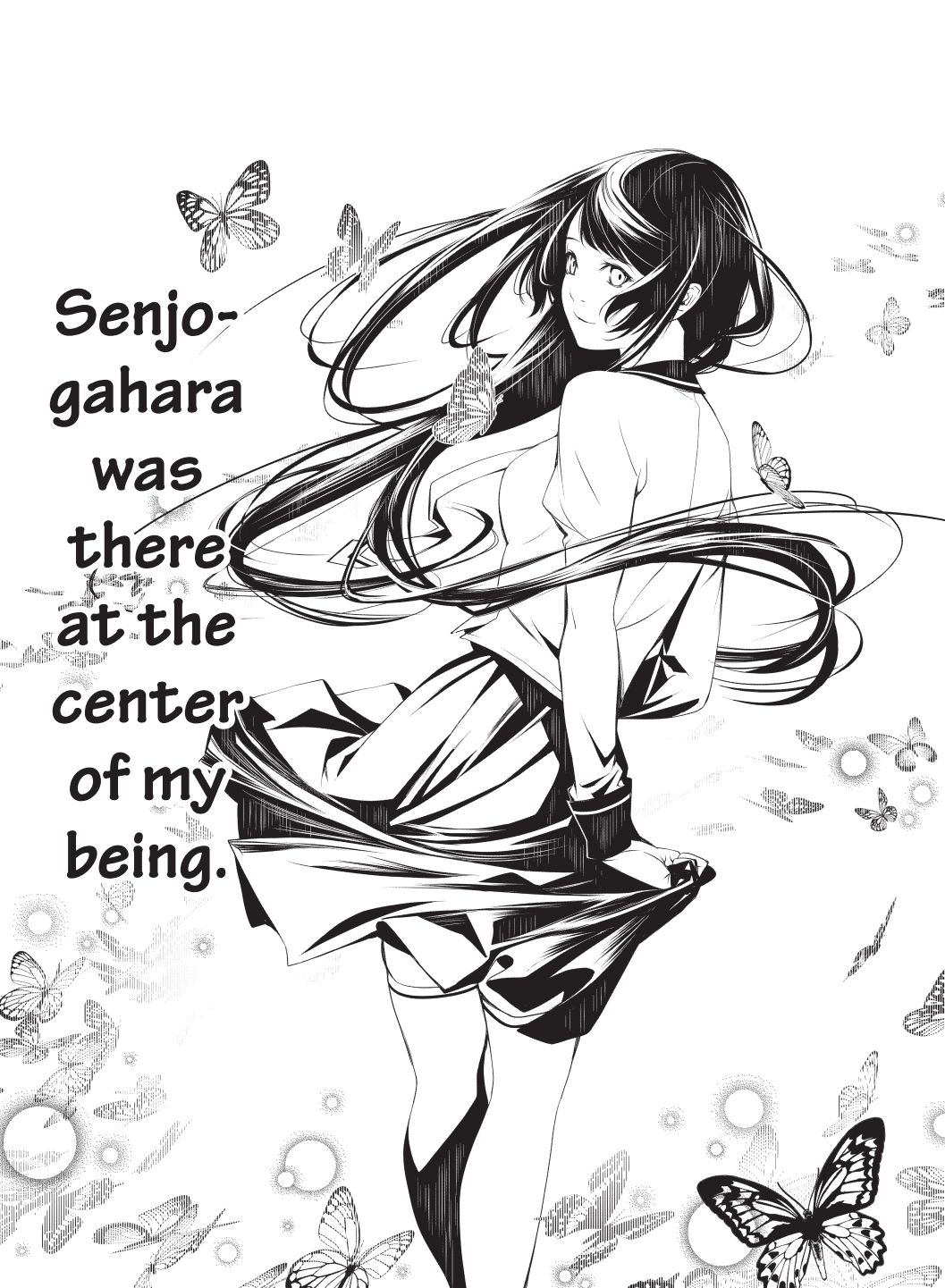

I never rebelled against my parents in middle school for no reason or anything.
I used to be a pretty good student and a decent athlete, too.
Senjo-gahara ...
Oh? How praise-worthy.

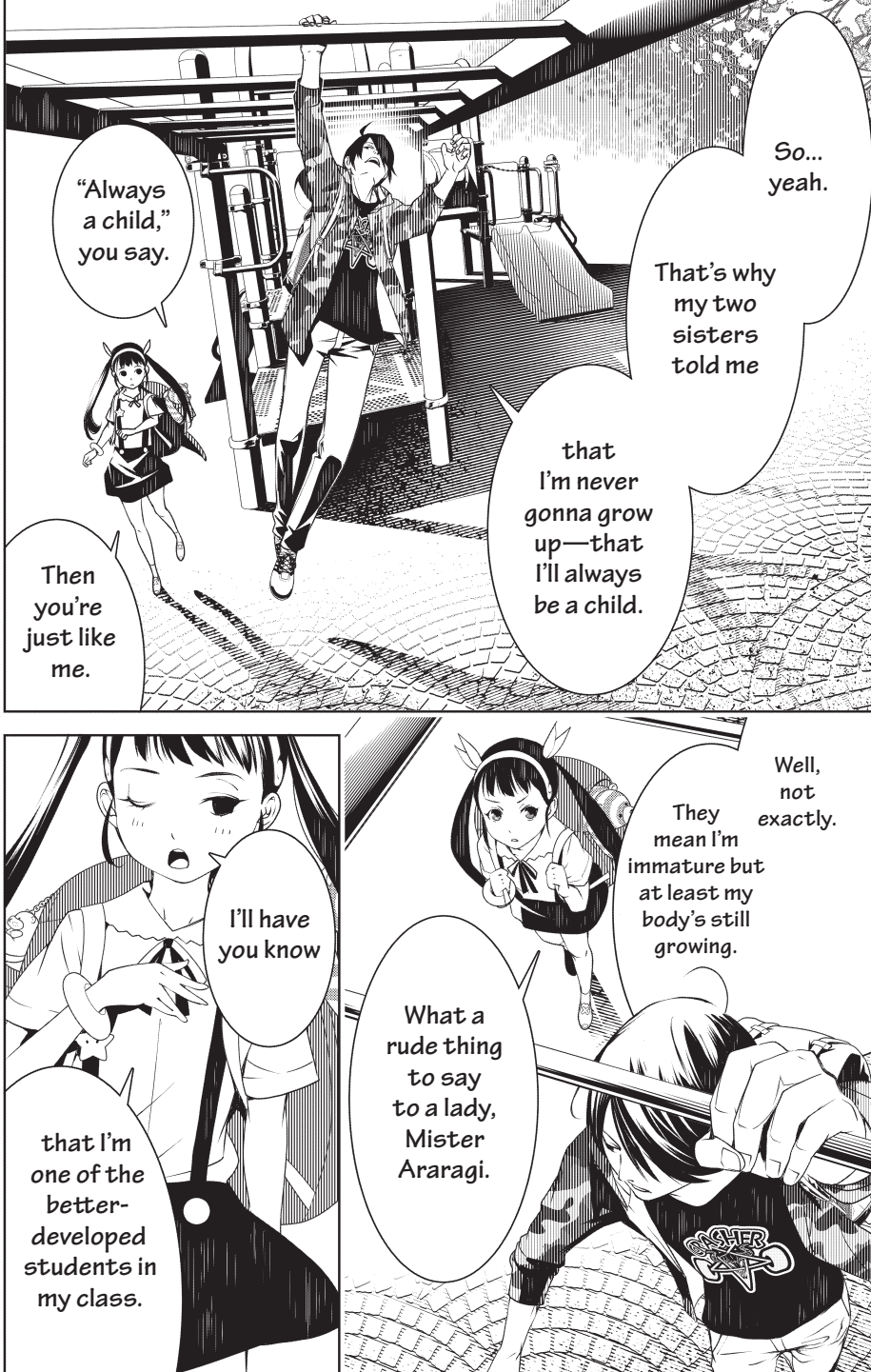
I have two little sisters, and they're a lot like me... yeah. Things were great at home until I blew it.
I wonder... how she feels about this kid.
There's no way she compares herself to Hachikuji like I do.
How so?

Senjogahara hasn't asked me a thing about Hanekawa's aberration.
that probably goes for Hanekawa, too.
And
I applied to a school that was way out of my league...
and somehow managed to get in.
Well, that's great. Congratulations.
But she still hasn't asked. She won't broach the subject. There's a sense of distance.
You wouldn't believe how bad it is when you're a washout at a school for smart kids.
I soon realized that I couldn't keep up.
No, it wasn't.
She has to wonder.

She... really is strong.
And when that happened, I went from being a good kid to being the opposite, and just as much, too.
But nothing specifically happened between me and my parents. It's just... kind of awkward around them. We all end up worrying about each other too much.
In that case,
I wonder how Senjo-gahara... feels about me.
...
Hm...?
What is... this feeling?

Before I knew it,
Hitagi Senjogahara is "the girl who's always ill" in our class.
It happened after I met a crab.
It almost feels like something's come over me.
Hitagi Senjogahara weighed so little that she nearly didn't exist.
She was the star of the track team.


Senjo-
gahara
was
there
at the
center
of my
being.


So... yeah.
That's why my two sisters told me
that I'm never gonna grow up—that I'll always be a child.
"Always a child," you say.
Then you're just like me.
Well, not exactly.
They mean I'm immature but at least my body's still growing.
What a rude thing to say to a lady, Mister Araragi.
I'll have you know
that I'm one of the better-developed students in my class.

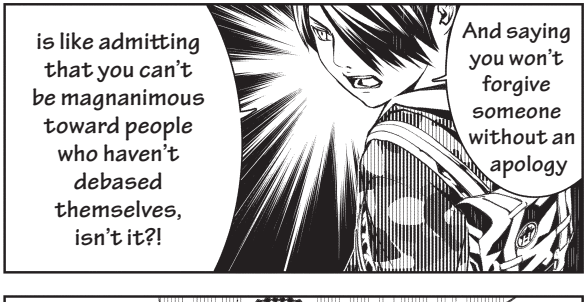
PLOOP
...
Your chest was pretty impressive.
True.

What ?!?
You touched my chest?!
When did you touch it ?!?!
Oh no ...
there's no way I can tell her I was groping her for a while...
Ah... erm.
When we were scuffling ...?

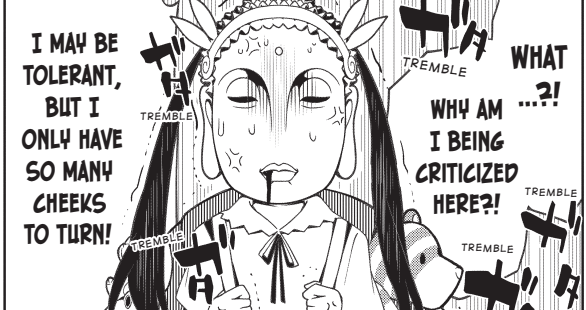
Well, it's not like I did it on purpose.
It was only for a fraction of a second.
THAT'S EVEN MORE SHOCKING THAN THE FACT THAT YOU PUNCHED ME!
FLAIL
FLAIL
Yup! Only about eight firsts of a second!!
THAT'S NOT A SPLIT SECOND AT ALL, AND THAT'S CLEARLY INTENTIONAL!!
A FRACTION OF A SECOND ?!
WAS THAT REALLY ALL IT WAS ?!
Think of it the other way around.
I didn't grope your breasts ...
your breasts groped my hands!!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

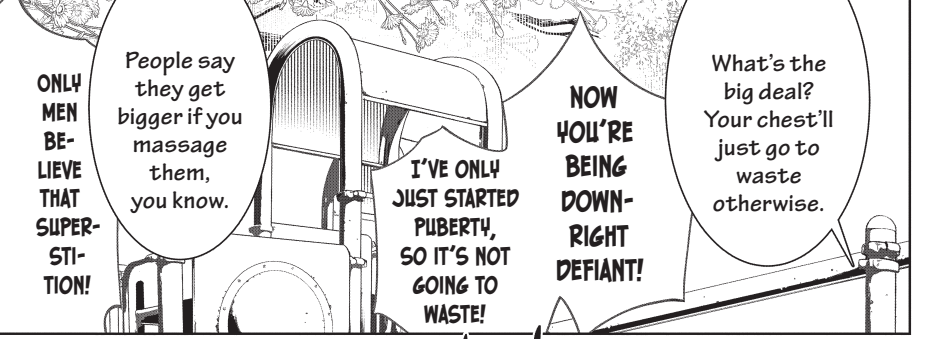
My first touch has been stolen from me...!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Your first touch ?
Is that what kids say these days...?
To think that my first touch came before my first kiss...
What a naughty girl Mayoi Hachikuji has become ...!
初キッスは
Daddy Was My First Kiss
パパ
Come on, lighten up.
It's better than your father taking your first kiss, you know?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A VERY "NORMAL" EVENT!
Oh yeah, Hachikuji, I forgot.
I need to give you the allowance I promised.
DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
IT'S VERY ALARMING!!!

...
Thank you?
No!
BAM
Anyway, Mister Araragi, you've been acting very brazen for some time now!
Isn't there some-thing you ought to say?!


is like admitting that you can't be magnanimous toward people who haven't debased themselves, isn't it?!
And saying you won't forgive someone without an apology

A grown man doesn't apolo-gize.
It cheapens his soul.
How cool ?!!

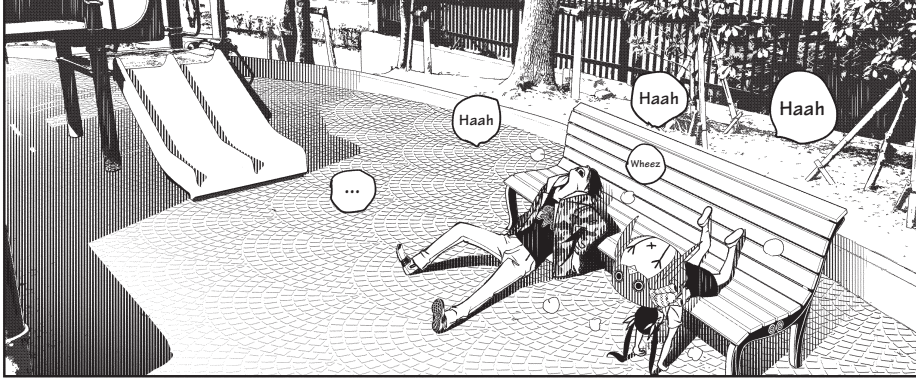

I MAY BE TOLERANT, BUT I ONLY HAVE SO MANY CHEEKS TO TURN!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHAT ...?!
WHY AM I BEING CRITICIZED HERE?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

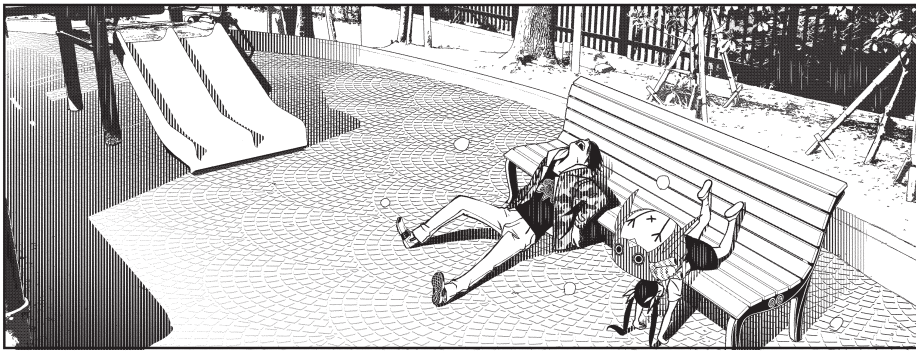

ONLY MEN BELIEVE THAT SUPERSTITION!
People say they get bigger if you massage them, you know.
I'VE ONLY JUST STARTED PUBERTY, SO IT'S NOT GOING TO WASTE!
NOW YOU'RE BEING DOWNRIGHT DEFIANT!
What's the big deal? Your chest'll just go to waste otherwise.

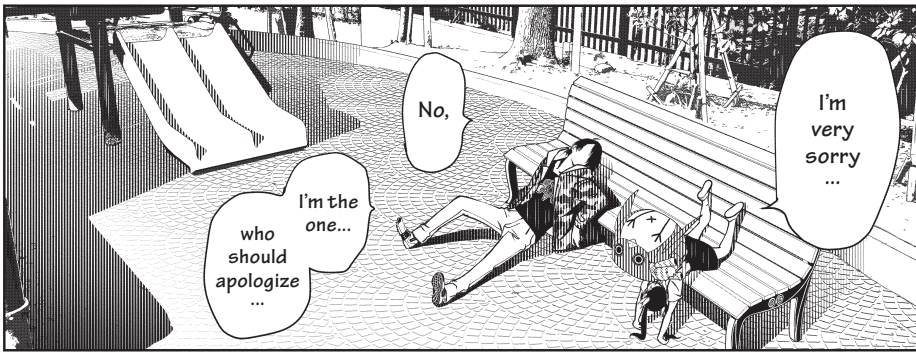
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?! YOU KNOW WHAT A VIRGIN IS?!
WOW, YOU'RE HOPELESS!

GRRAH!
BUT INSTEAD I GOT A LOUSY VIRGIN LIKE YOU, MISTER ARARAGI! MY DREAMS HAVE BEEN SHATTERED!!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I WANTED MY FIRST TO BE A SMOOTH OPERATOR!
GRRAAHH!

OH, QUIET DOWN! FINE, THEN! I'M JUST GONNA SQUEEZE THEM UNTIL YOU FORGET ALL THIS "FIRSTS" NONSENSE YOU'VE BEEN SPOUTING!!
A-AGH! THAT'S DANGEROUS! STOP IT!!
POW
BOOF
GRRAH! GRRAAHH!


Haah
Haah
Haah
Wheez
...

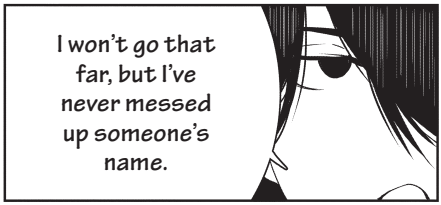



No,
I'm very sorry ...
I'm the one...
who should apologize ...

I bet she's eating right now.
I can't believe her...
Senjo-gahara ... sure is late ...
KAAW
KAAW

...
Is something the matter, Mister Arararagi?
You know you added an extra "ra" this time...

SORRY, JUST A SLIP OF THE TONGUE !
No way.
You did it on purpose.
NO, I THIT MY THONGUE !!
CHOOMP
IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE ?!!


I won't go that far, but I've never messed up someone's name.

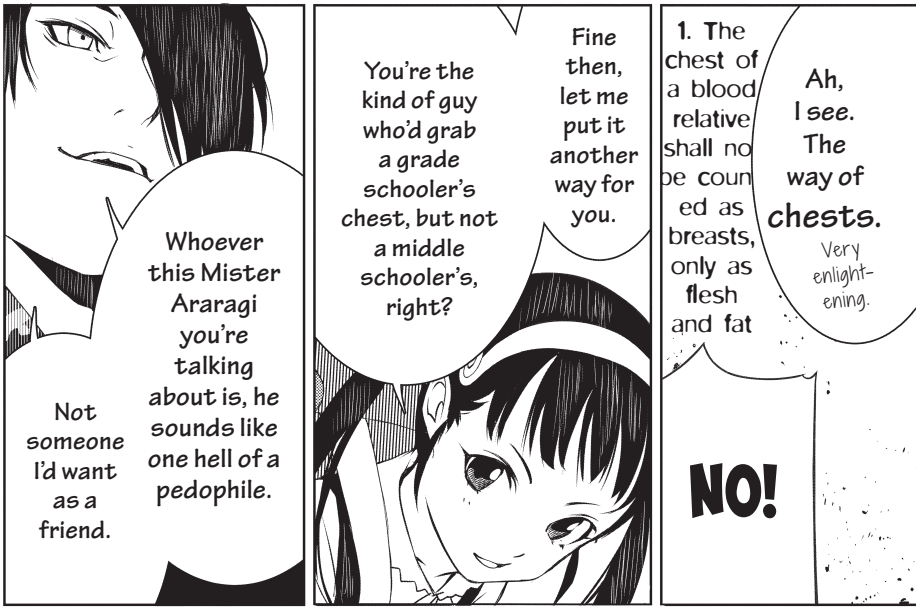
Or are you telling me that you've never misspoken?
Everyone trips over their own words now and then.

You botched it yourself.
Fine, then. Say, "she shells she-shells on the she-shore" three times in a row.

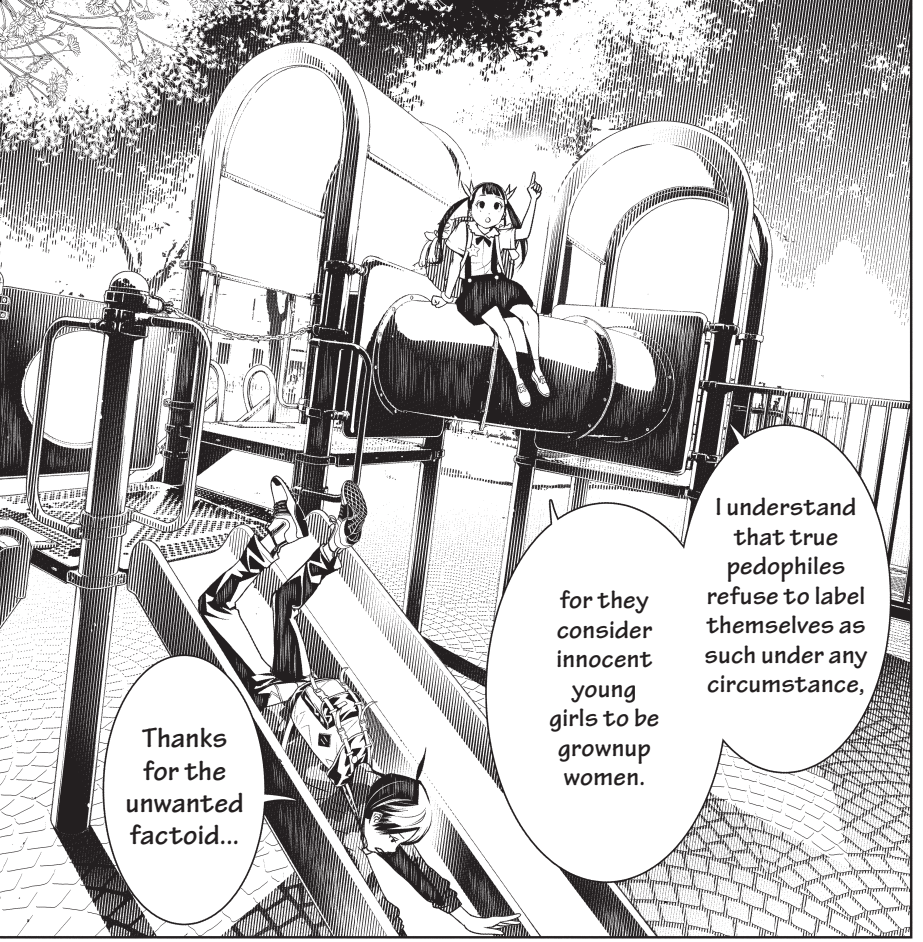
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SHE-SHELLS"?! ARE WOMEN ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT, NOT ME!

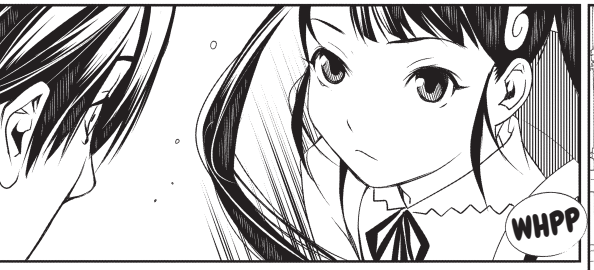
So, is something the matter?
Were you ruminating on how my chest feels different from your sister's?
NO!
I'D NEVER GRAB MY SISTER'S CHEST!

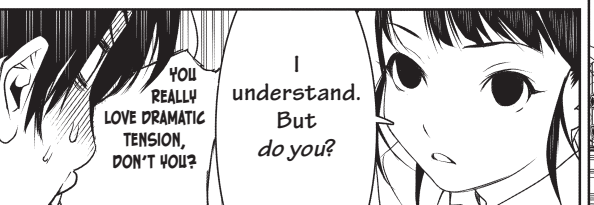
Only an unyielding spirit could make such a sarcastic remark.
A little sister's chest doesn't count as a woman's.
Oh, so you'd grope a grade schooler, but not your little sister. That's where you draw the line.

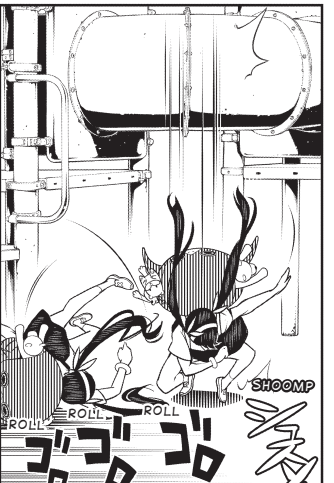

Whoever this Mister Araragi you're talking about is, he sounds like one hell of a pedophile.
Not someone I'd want as a friend.
You're the kind of guy who'd grab a grade schooler's chest, but not a middle schooler's, right?
Fine then, let me put it another way for you.
1. The chest of a blood relative shall no be coun ed as breasts, only as flesh and fat
Ah, I see. The way of chests.
Very enlight-ening.
NO!

You bet.
You seem to be trying to deny that you're a pedophile.


I understand that true pedophiles refuse to label themselves as such under any circumstance,
for they consider innocent young girls to be grownup women.
Thanks for the unwanted factoid...

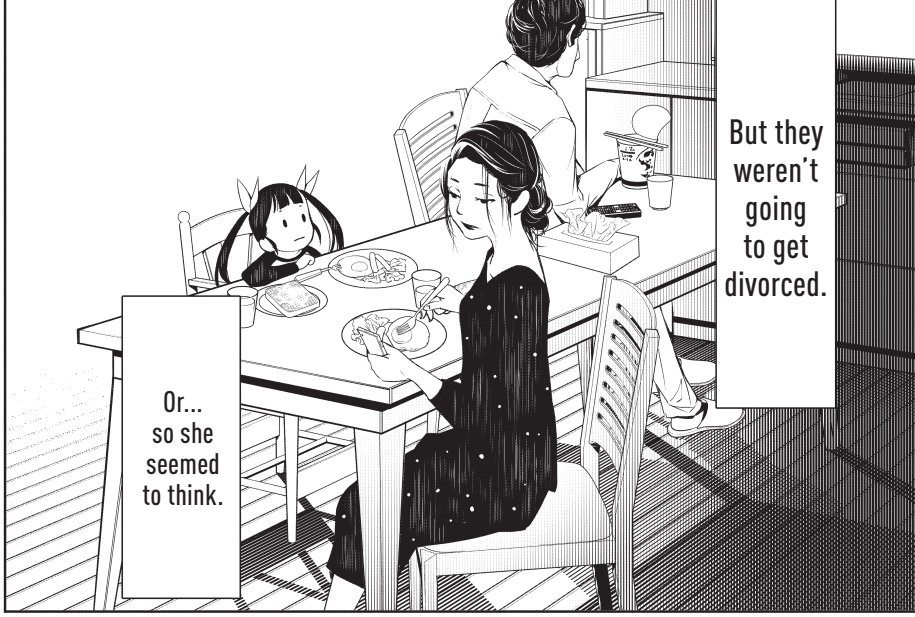

WHPP

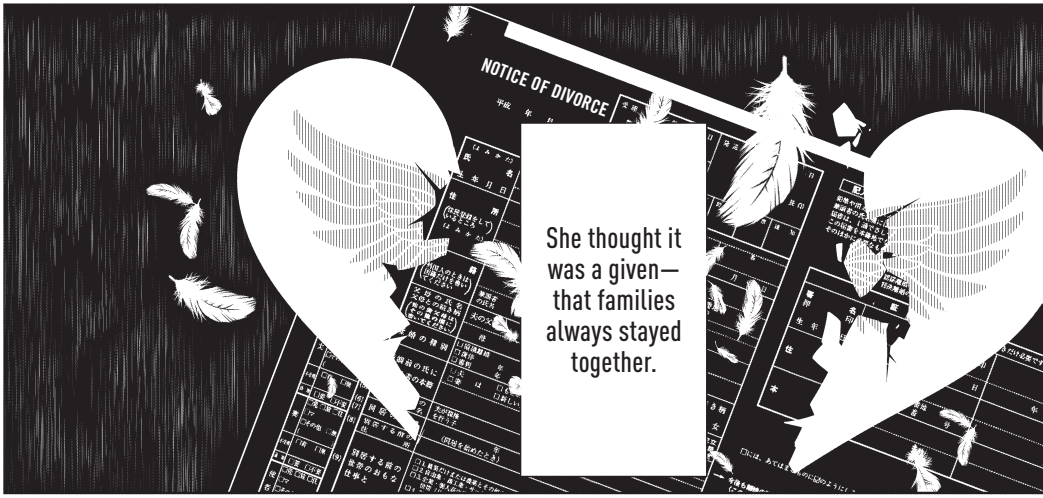

I understand. But *do you*?
YOU REALLY LOVE DRAMATIC TENSION, DON'T YOU?

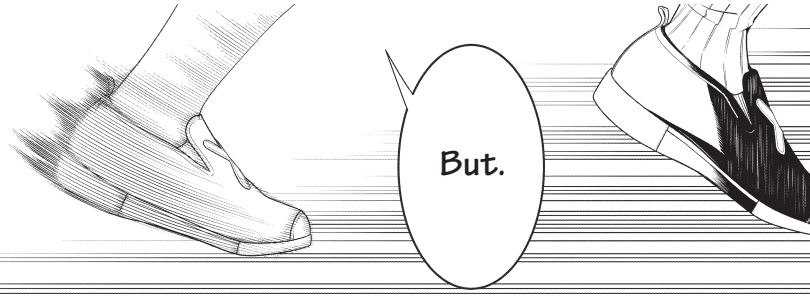

SHOOMP
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ゴロ
ゴロ

So,
tell me what happened, Mister Araragi.
Well, I was just thinking ... that maybe... no, surely ...
my two sisters must be waiting for me to come home...

I get it, you know?
I know I should apologize.
I know that...
but honestly, I don't want to go home.
...
My mother and father always fought.
I heard they were madly in love before they married,
but I've never seen them get along.


But they weren't going to get divorced.
Or... so she seemed to think.

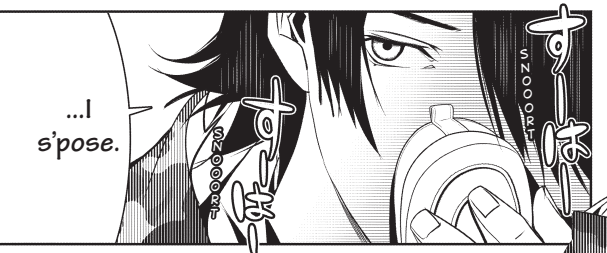

NOTICE OF DIVORCE
She thought it was a given—that families always stayed together.

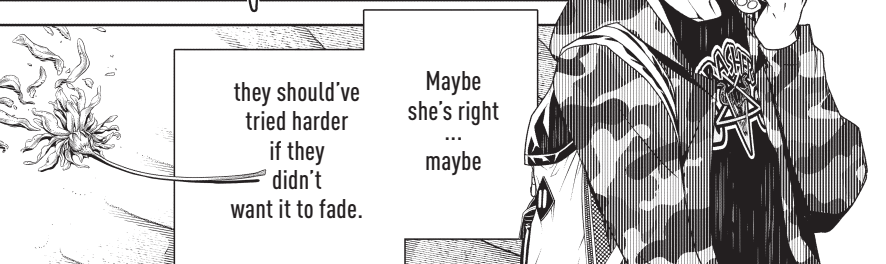

But.

It's only natural that they'd argue
and come to hate one another.
It's certainly more natural than not fighting at all.
But if they'd wanted to stay in love...
to stay to-gether forever...

I think
they both should've worked harder.
That doesn't sound very sincere.
Working hard to love some-thing...?
That's like making a conscious effort to make it happen.

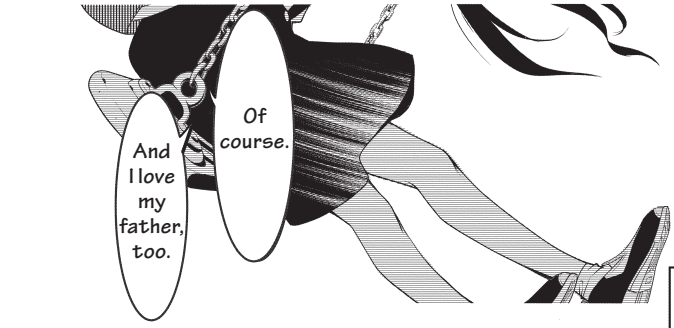
But, Mister Ara-ragi,
isn't the feeling we call love
a very conscious thing from the start?


...I s'pose.
すぴー
SNOOORT
すぴー
SNOOORT


they should've tried harder if they didn't want it to fade.
Maybe she's right ... maybe
SNIFF SNIFF

Growing bored of something you love and coming to hate it
is so painful, isn't it? Isn't it dreary?
If you loved someone ten times over, it's like you're hating them twenty times over just to hate them as much as you loved them...

It's kinda
de-
press-
ing.

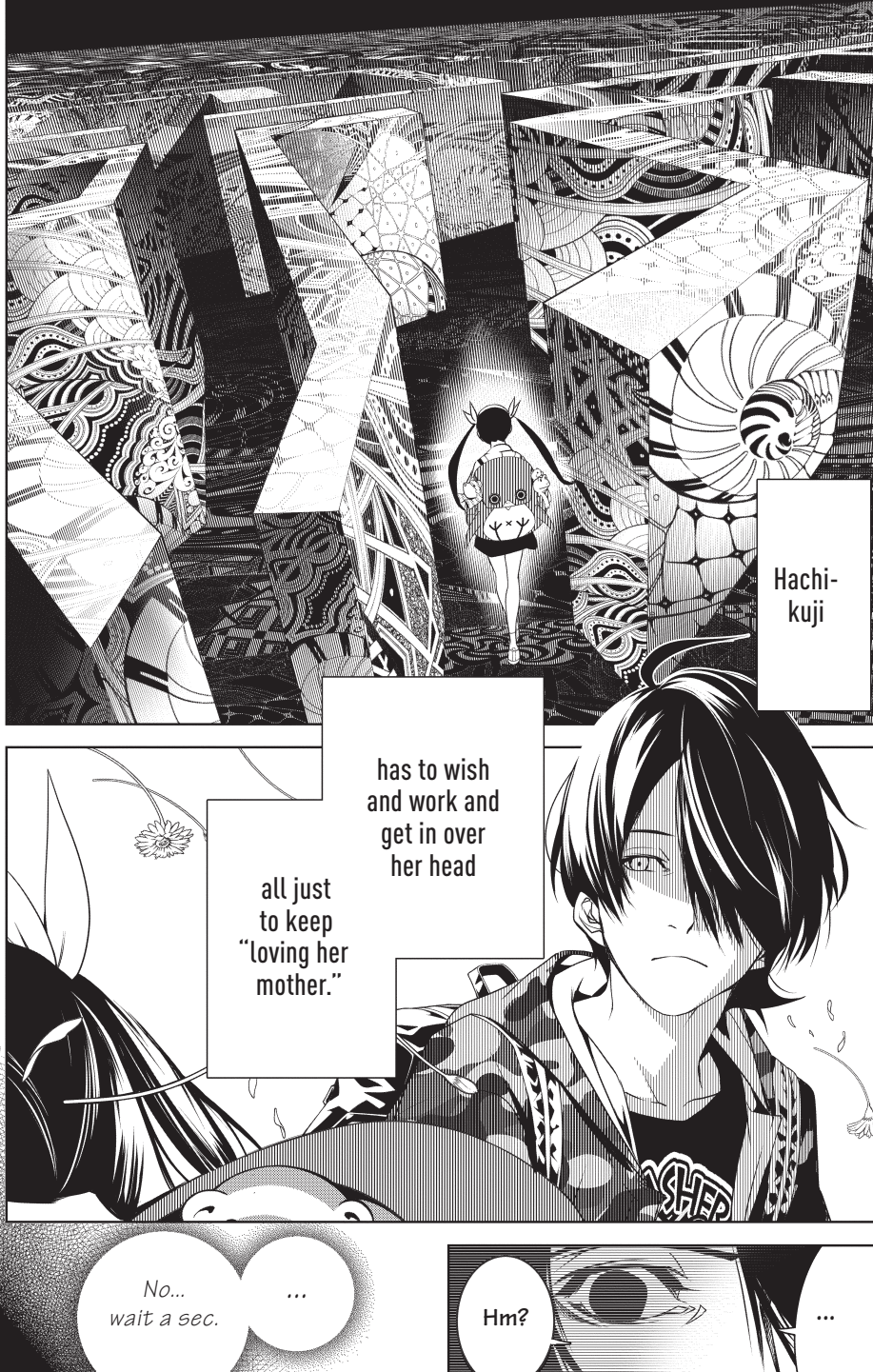


Putting all your weight in one direction

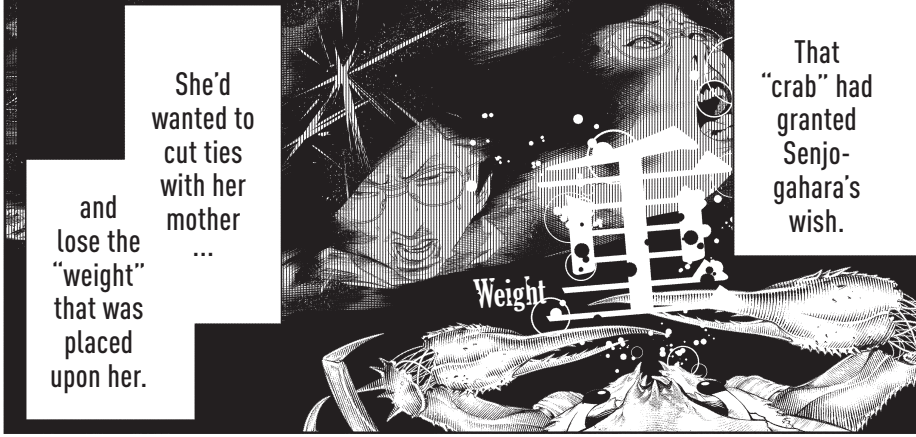
means that the recoil coming back will be that much deeper and wider...

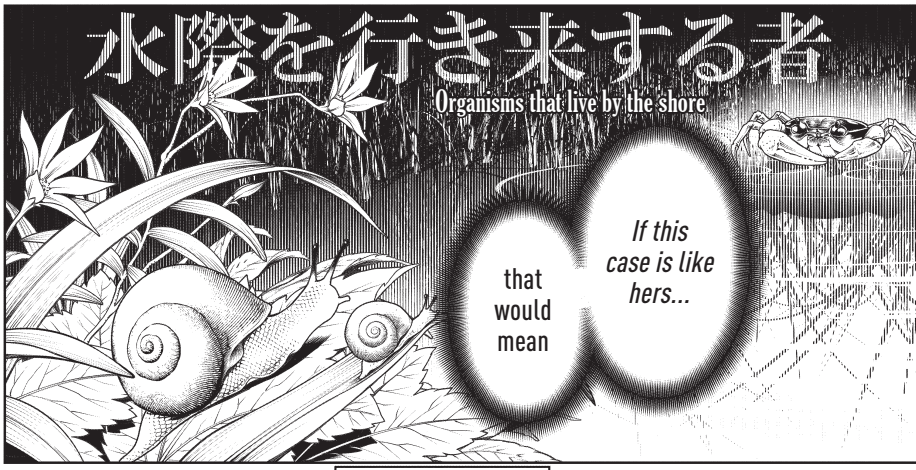
But

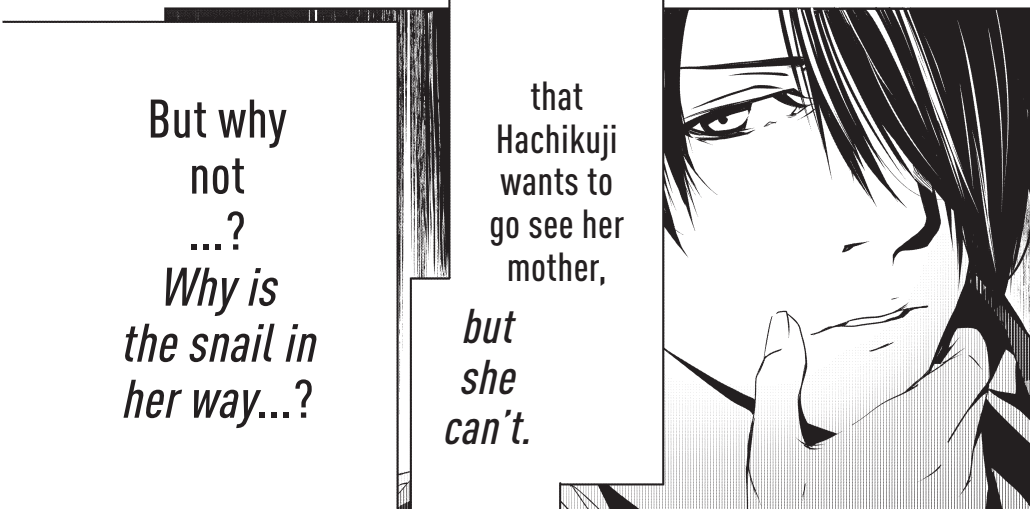
If we're kept apart like this forever...
I worry
that I might forget all about her one day.
Hachikuji was possessed by a snail.
Which is why
Some-day...
won't I end up forgetting that
I love her?

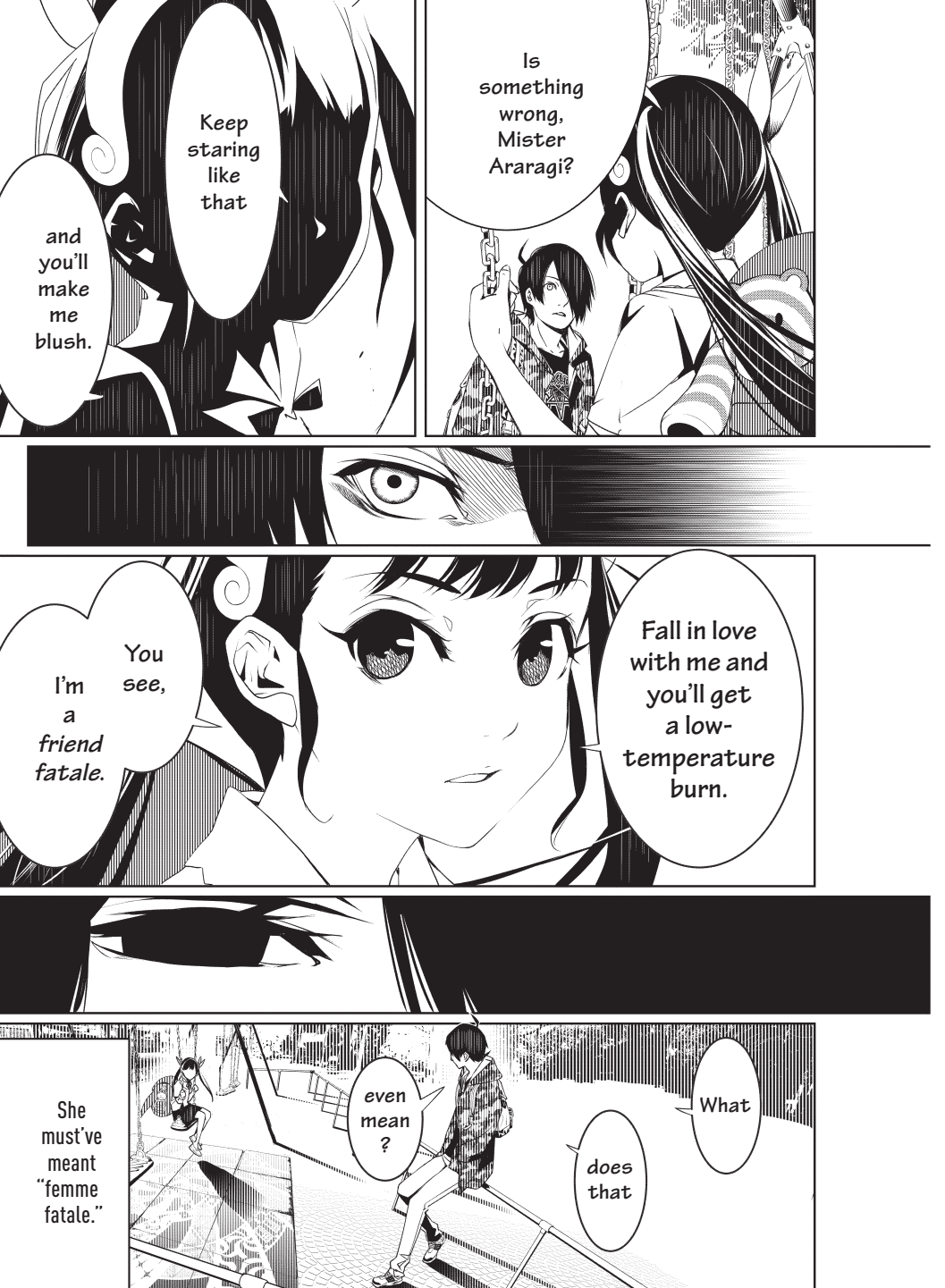

Hachi-kuji
has to wish and work and get in over her head
all just to keep "loving her mother."
No... wait a sec.
...
Hm?
...

...
Isn't that strange?
Oshino told me
that this case was *like Senjogahara's*.
CONNECTED
END CALL
MUTE
SWITCH CAMERA
That it was *the same situation with the "crab."*
Then... what exactly is the snail
doing to Hachi-kuji...?

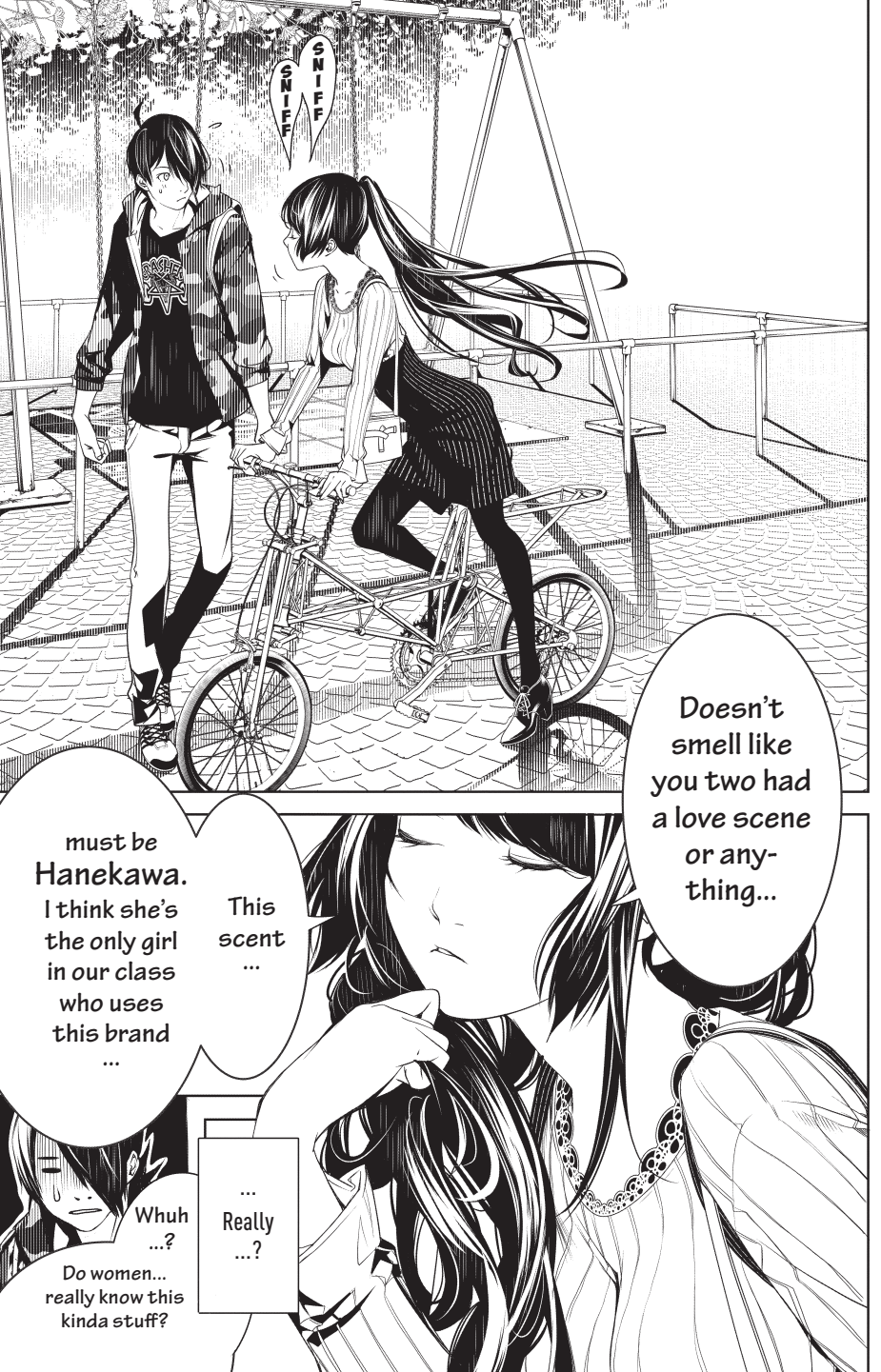

That "crab" had granted Senjogahara's wish.
Weight
She'd wanted to cut ties with her mother ...
and lose the "weight" that was placed upon her.


水際を行き来する者
Organisms that live by the shore
If this case is like hers...
that would mean


But why not ...? Why is the snail in her way...?
that Hachikuji wants to go see her mother,
but she can't.


Is something wrong, Mister Araragi?
Keep staring like that
and you'll make me blush.
Fall in love with me and you'll get a low-temperature burn.
You see,
I'm a friend fatale.
What does that even mean?
She must've meant "femme fatale."

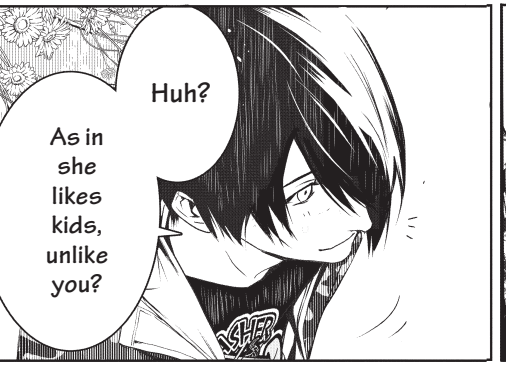
SNIFF
SNIFF
I SMELL AN-OTHER WOM-AN.
JOLT
Oh!
Wel-come back ... Senjo-gahara!
...
SNIFF
SNIFF

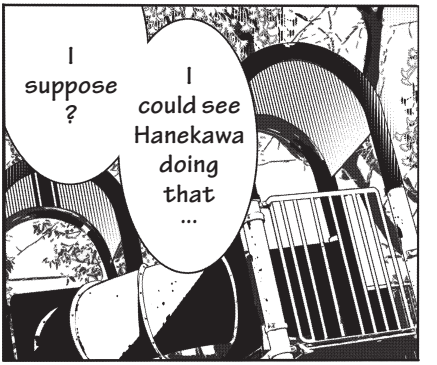

SNIFF
SNIFF
Doesn't smell like you two had a love scene or anything...
This scent ...
must be Hanekawa. I think she's the only girl in our class who uses this brand ...
... Really ...?
Whuh ...?
Do women... really know this kinda stuff?

To some degree.
It's like your ability to identify a girl by the shape of her hips, Araragi.
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER EXHIBITING THAT SPECIAL ABILITY!!
...Oh?
...You... can't?
WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO SURPRISED ?!
But you were kind enough to compliment me the other day.
"Ah, what a nice, seated pelvis and motherly hips.
I bet you'll give birth to a bouncing baby boy, GEH HEH HEH HEH!"
THAT'S WHAT A DIRTY OLD MAN WOULD SAY!!!
And your hips aren't even motherly.

So, Hanekawa was here.
Now that you mention it, she lives in this area, doesn't she? She'd serve us well as a guide.
Did you call her here, Araragi?
No...! I didn't.
She happened to be passing by.
Just like you!
...
She's kinda scaring me now.

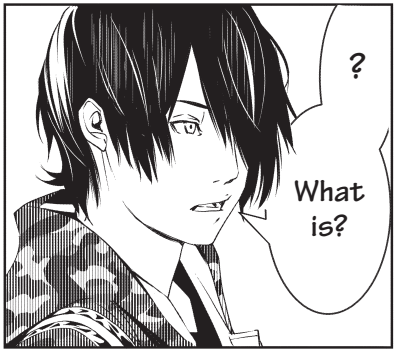
KLONK
Just like
me...
huh?
Just like me.
I see.
So that is what happened.
You never know when coincidences come in pairs... or that's what we'll call it, at least.
Huh ?
Did Hane-kawa say anything ?
KREAK
キィ
No,
not really.
We just talked a little.
Right?
She patted Hachikuji on the head like this... and then left.





We're not the same.

Any-way, Ara-ragi.
I seem to owe you an apology.
Huh?


What is?
?

He said it's the other way around.

VIDEO PLA
BUFFERIN

and two people observe it from their own viewpoints and reach different conclusions— that happens, right?
16:55
Sunday, May 14
Enter your password
Say we take a certain fact...
Mis-ter Oshi-no put it like this:

If you're looking for a method that'll determine which point of view is correct...
it simply doesn't exist.
There's no way... to prove you are right in this world.
Get it, Araragi ?

This guy really talks like he sees through everything.
I hate it.
And if I turn it this way, it'll look like a "rectangle."
However, its true essence is neither a circle nor a rectangle, but a "cylinder."
四
Quadrilateral
角
In other words, that's how it is.
丸
Circle
that you're mistaken.
But that's exactly why
it's equally wrong to conclude
From your point of view, Araragi,
this cigarette looks like a "circle,"
right?

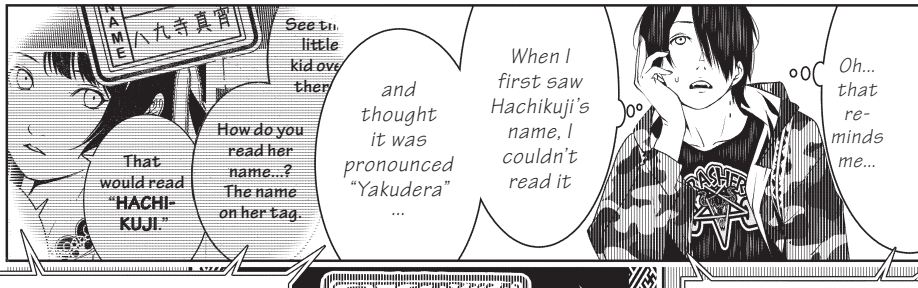
TURN
the essence of an object changes its shape.
and "position,"
Depending on your "angle"

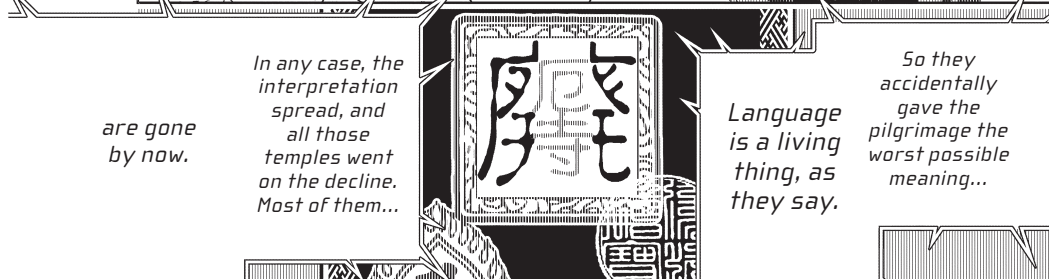
This is no time... to be going on about—
What are you talking about, Oshino?
but what're you saying?
I get... what you mean...
...

Man— what an interesting town this is. Just look at all these tangled fates.
Lost snails and cows... and we've even got "Tsunade" for "rope."
It all seems like one big pun to me... good grief.
How dumb.
MUTTER
ボソッ
Okay, so the "Hachiku" part of the name Hachikuji... was originally written using the characters that make up the word "black bamboo."
That shows up in Shinonome Monogatari, correct?
Didn't you learn that one in class, Araragi?
But then it got changed to the characters "eight" and "nine," or "hachi" and "ku"—
and well, it's all just a play on words, really.

Yeah... of course.
...Shikoku ?
This involves the smallest of Japan's four major islands...?
SHIKOKU 88 TEMPLE PILGRIMAGE MAP
EHIME PREFECTURE / PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT
Even you must have heard of some of Japan's famous pilgrimages, right?
Like the eighty-eight temple pilgrimage in Shikoku, or the thirty-three temple pilgrimage in the western region?
PATH TO NIRVANA
TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE / PATH TO AWAKENING
Well, "Hachikuji" is one of those pilgrimages.
"Ji" means temple, but "Hachiku-ji" isn't the name of a specific temple... instead, long ago,
eighty-nine temples put their names on a list called just that.
Thriving Business
You know the phrase "Once you start cutting bamboo, there's no stopping the knife?"
Well, the Hachikuji list got one up on the eighty-eight temple pilgrimage in Shikoku...
really, people thought it would bring them good fortune...
how-ever.

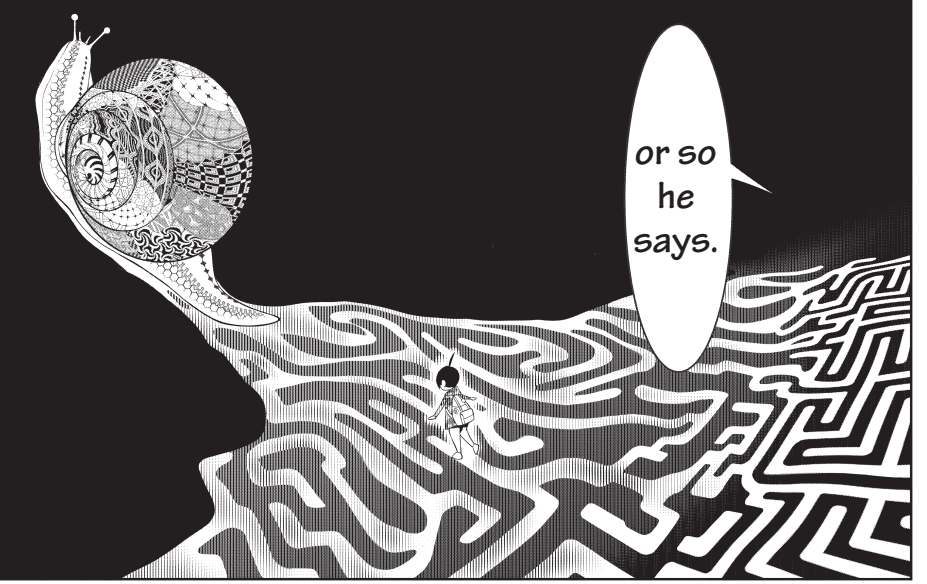
"ya-ku."
"Eight" and "nine" together can also be written as
Misfor-tune.
Isn't that right?

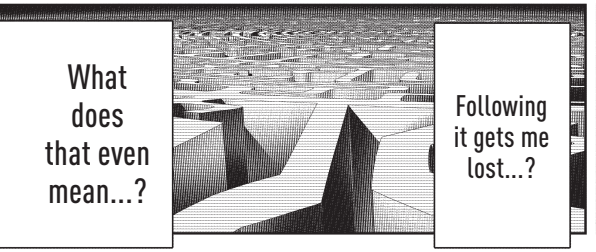

八九寺真宵
See th... little kid ove... ther...
How do you read her name...? The name on her tag.
That would read "HACHI-KUJI."
and thought it was pronounced "Yakudera" ...
When I first saw Hachikuji's name, I couldn't read it
Oh... that re-minds me...


厄
are gone by now.
In any case, the interpretation spread, and all those temples went on the decline. Most of them...
Language is a living thing, as they say.
So they accidentally gave the pilgrimage the worst possible meaning...

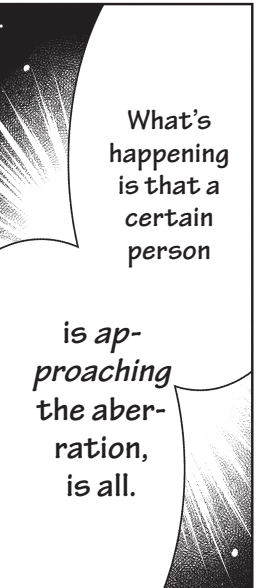
when you see the name "Mayoi Hachi-kuji" ...?
So, with that bit of history in mind,
what do you think of
Doesn't it all seem a little too meaningful to you, Araragi?

Explaining it in words is very simple:

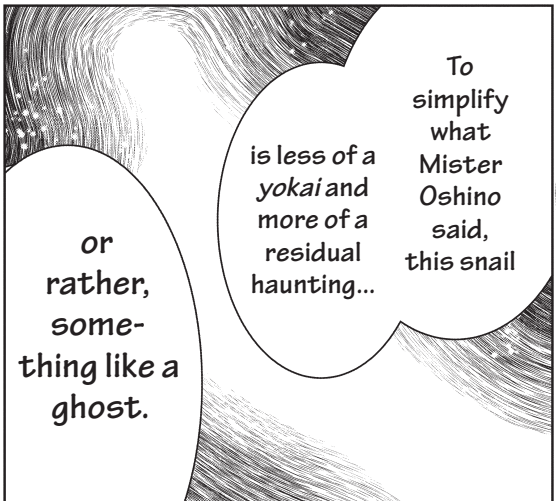

or so he says.


What does that even mean...?
Following it gets me lost...?

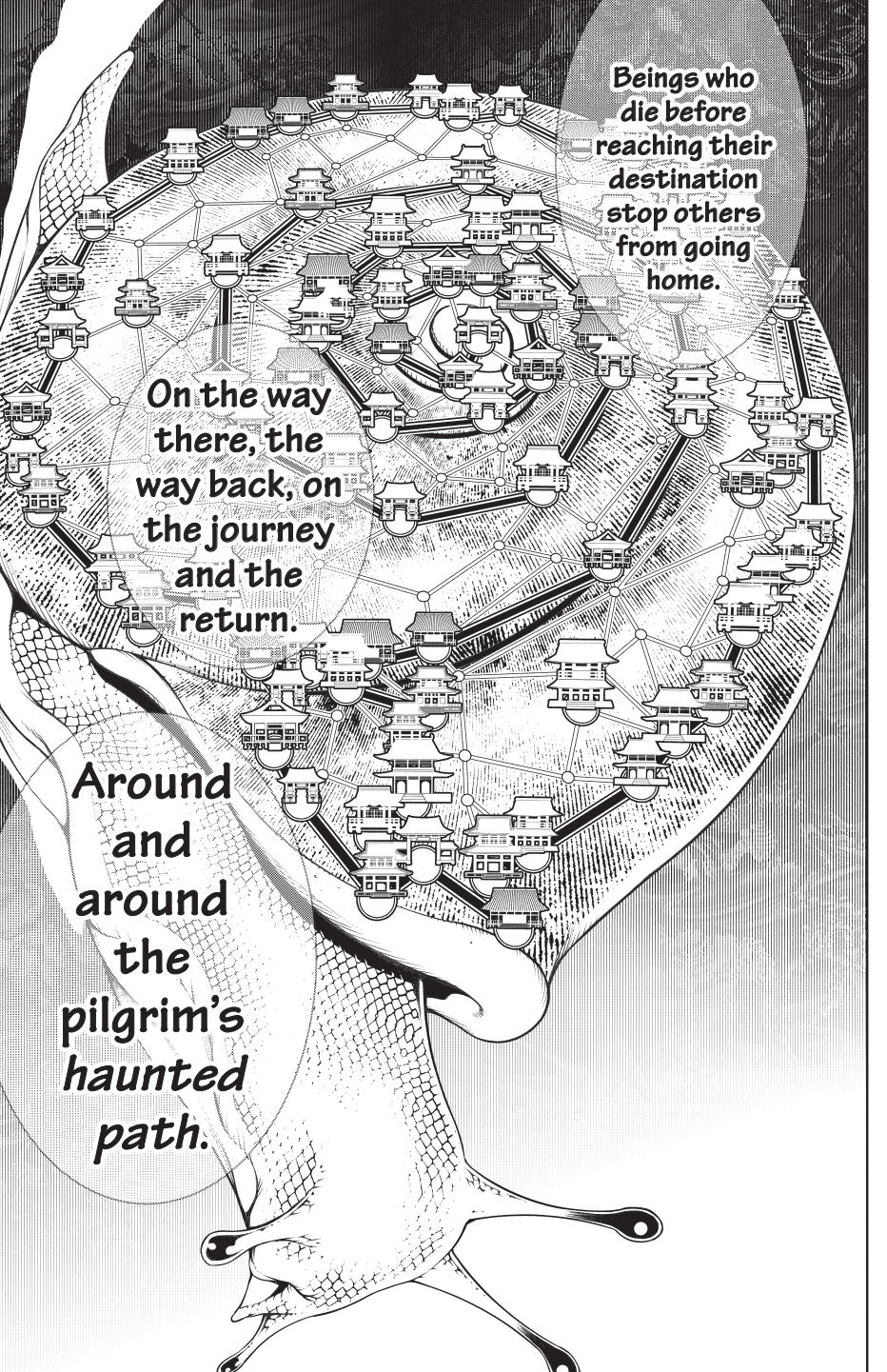
...Huh?


What's happening is that a certain person
is *approaching* the aberration, is all.

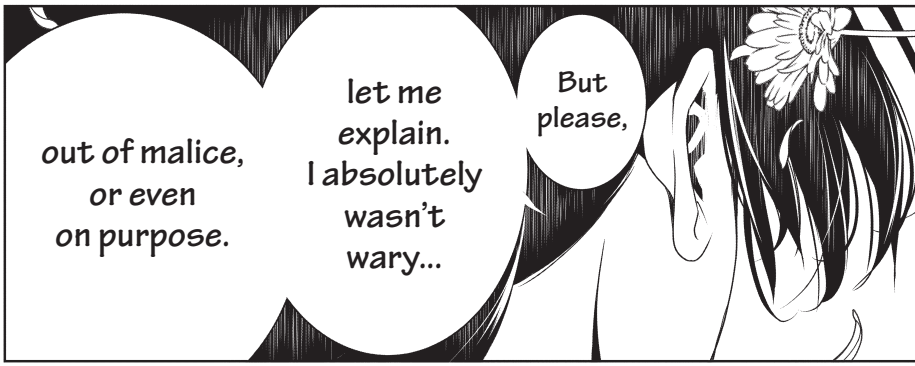
With this snail... there's no need for exorcism or prayer.
No one is being possessed... or harmed.
ZSSHH



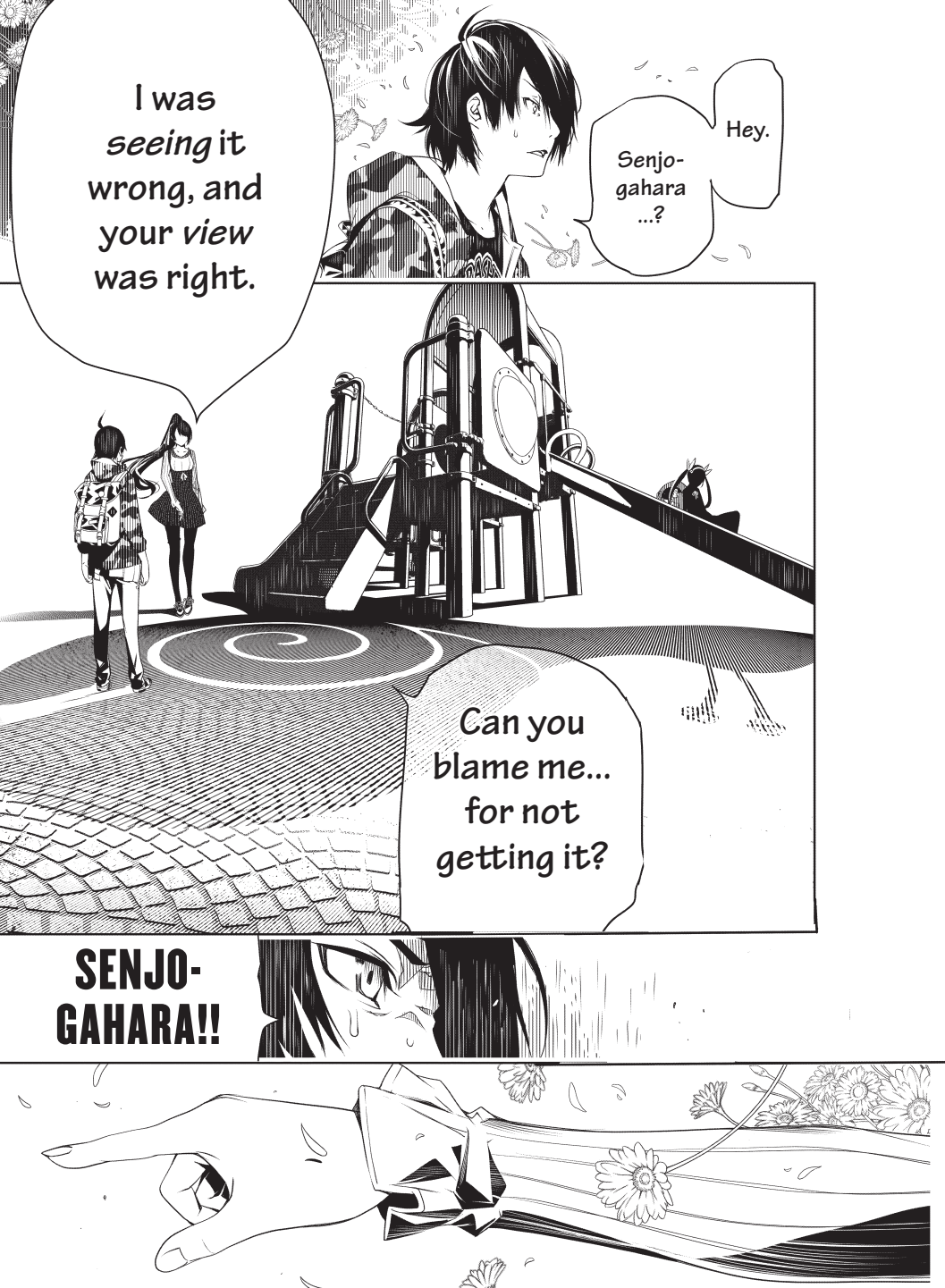
it's the other way around.

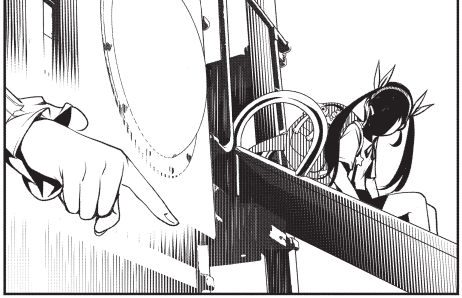

Beings who die before reaching their destination stop others from going home.
On the way there, the way back, on the journey and the return.
Around and around the pilgrim's *haunted path.*

That's why...
I need to apologize to you, Araragi.

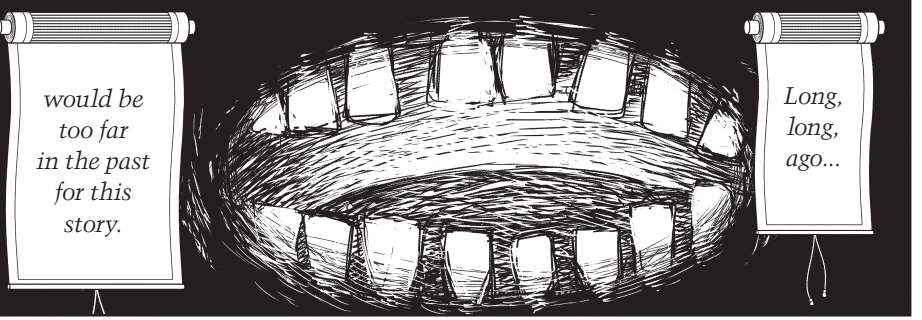

But please,
let me explain. I absolutely wasn't wary...
out of malice, or even on purpose.

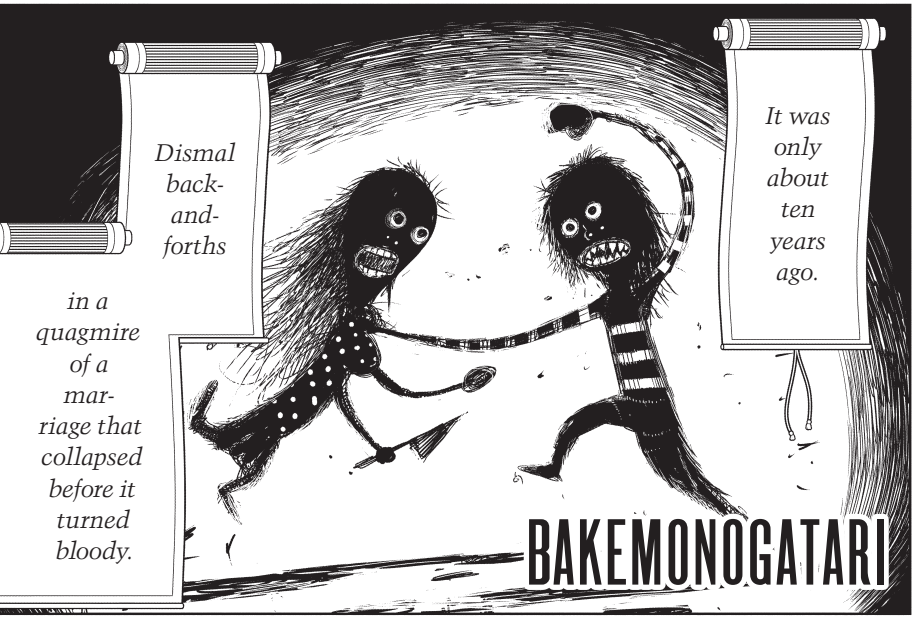
I was just sure that *I was the one* who was mistaken...
I mean, why wouldn't I think that? There was *something strange* about me for over two years...

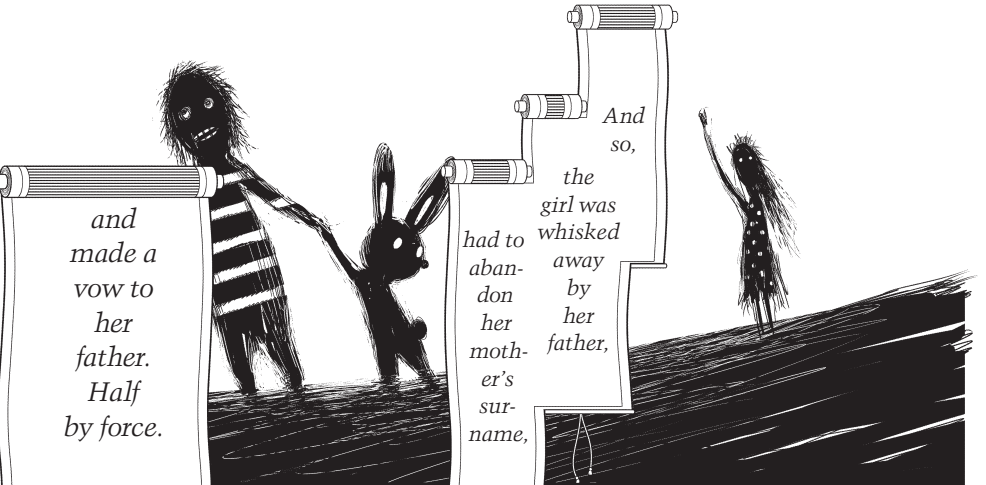

I was *seeing* it wrong, and your *view* was right.
Hey.
Senjo-gahara ...?
Can you blame me... for not getting it?
SENJO-GAHARA!!



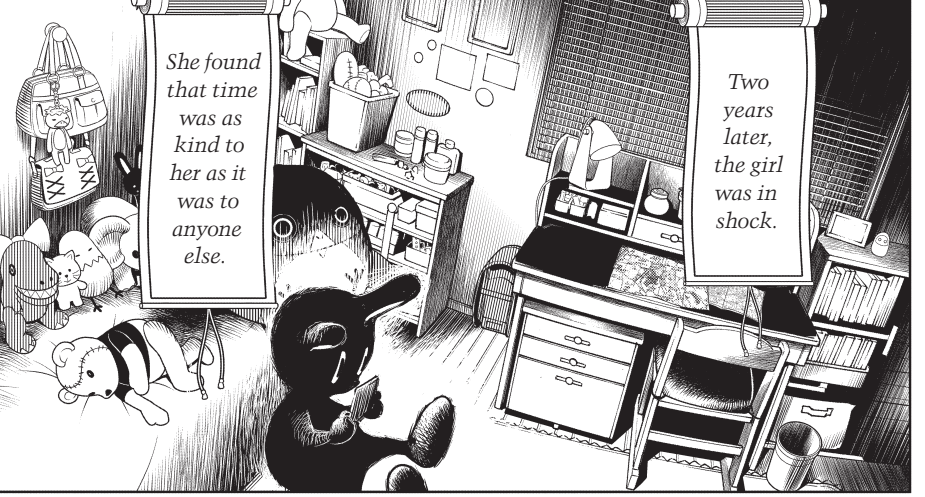
see
that
girl.

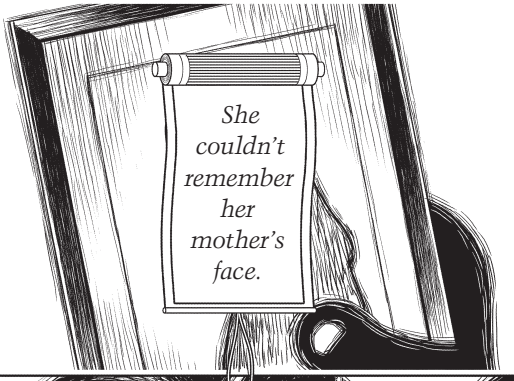

would be too far in the past for this story.
Long, long, ago...

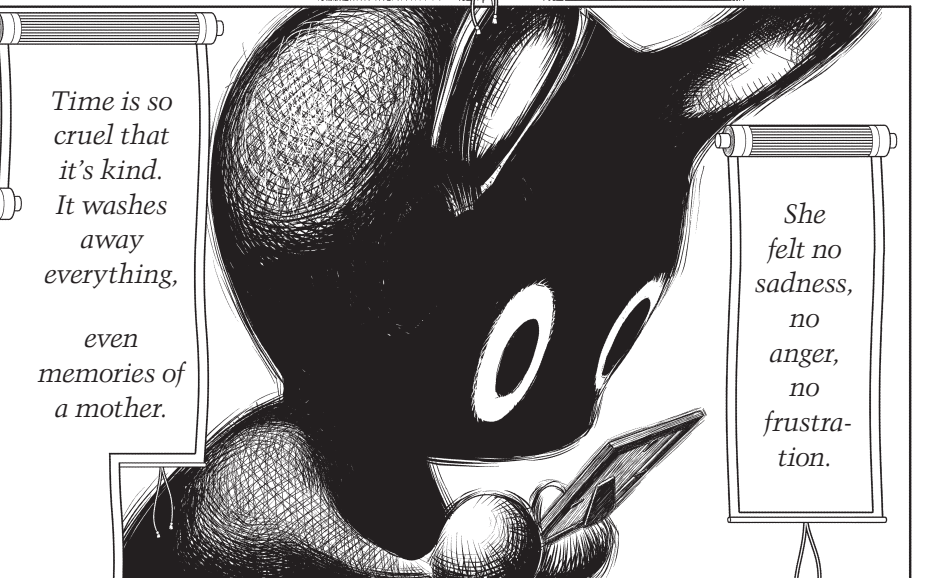

Dismal back-and-forths
in a quagmire of a mar-riage that collapsed before it turned bloody.
It was only about ten years ago.
BAKEMONOGATARI


and made a vow to her father. Half by force.
had to aban-don her moth-er's sur-name,
And so, the girl was whisked away by her father,

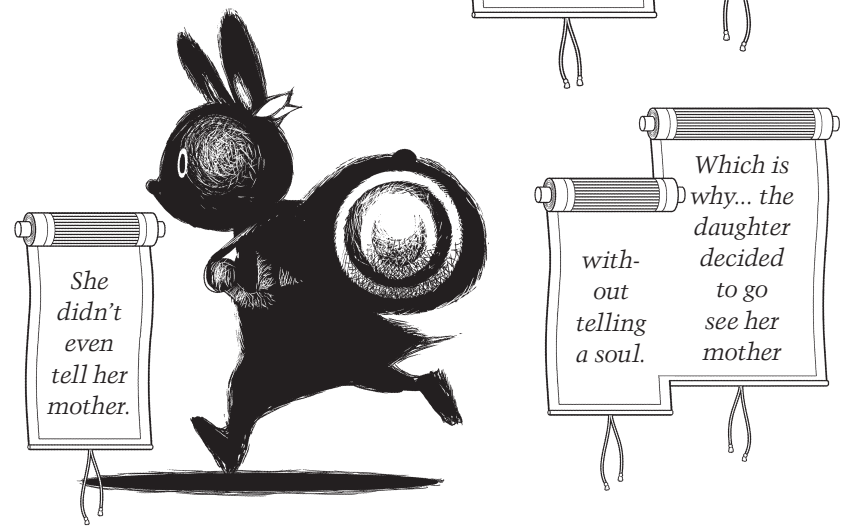
never see my mother again."
"I will
What does it mean? Can one really say that she was forced to do it?
But if she was "half-forced," what about the other half?
of her own volition.
For
It was "half"
Major Rachikuji's Mental Analysis
46%
54%
Forced
She said it all the same.
Was she really forced to do it?


She found that time was as kind to her as it was to anyone else.
Two years later, the girl was in shock.

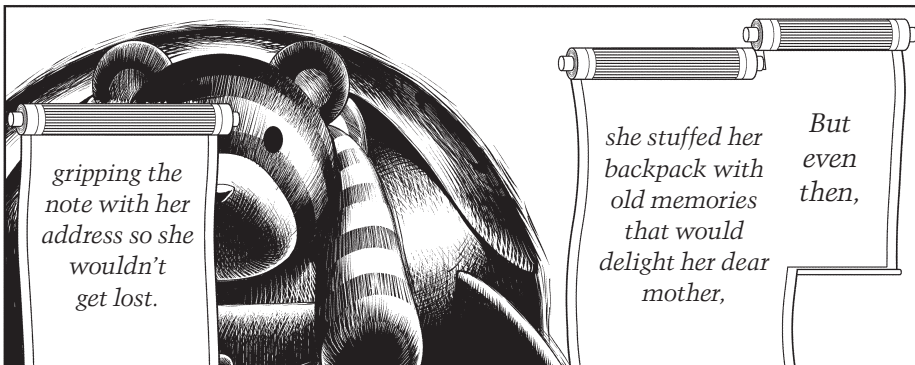

She couldn't remember her mother's face.

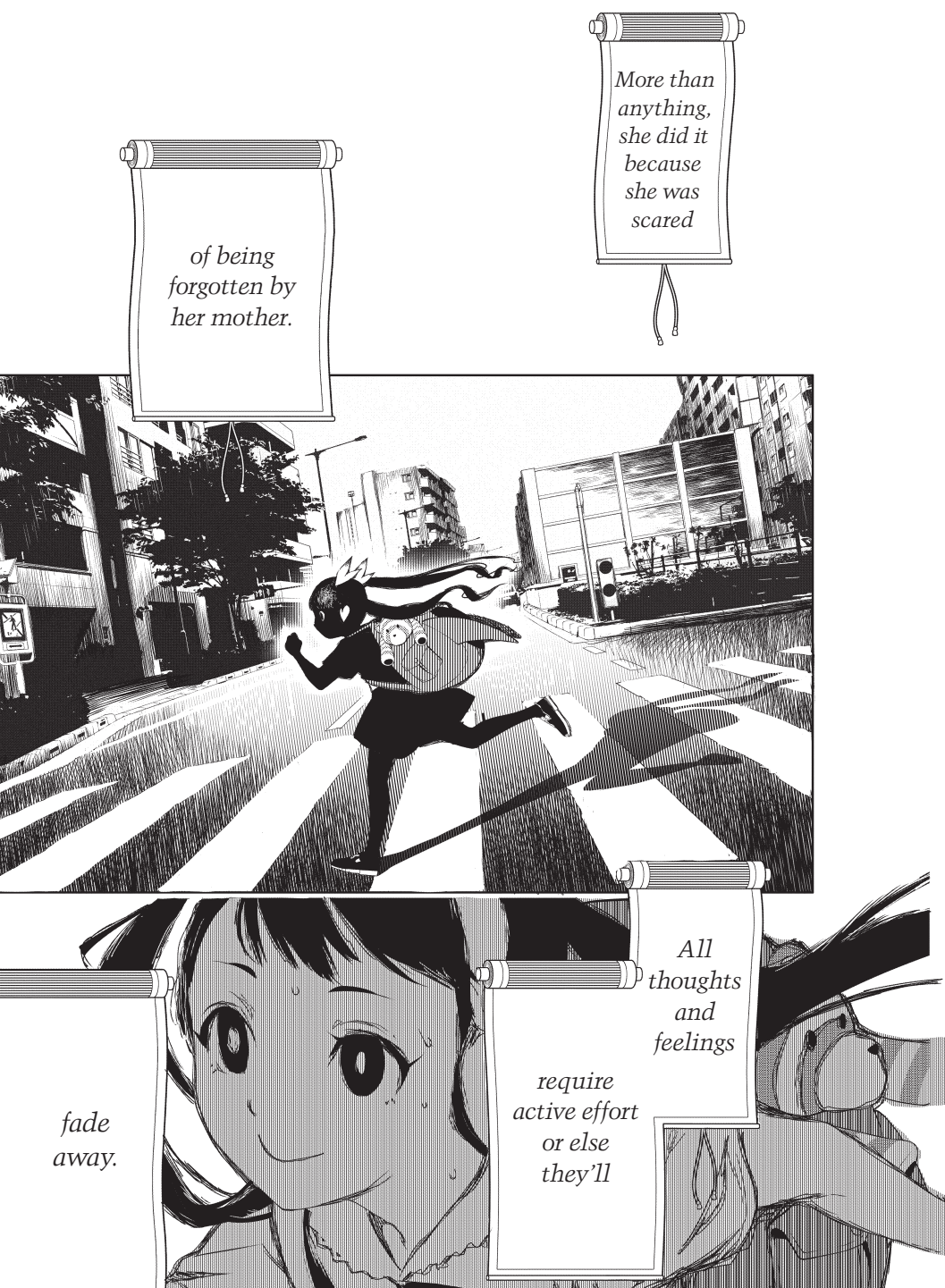

Time is so cruel that it's kind. It washes away everything,
even memories of a mother.
She felt no sadness, no anger, no frustration.

All thoughts and feelings
fade with time.


She didn't even tell her mother.
Which is why... the daughter decided to go see her mother without telling a soul.

The girl was ready to turn back at any time.
What if her mother hated her? Or saw her as a nuisance?
She was too scared.


gripping the note with her address so she wouldn't get lost.
she stuffed her backpack with old memories that would delight her dear mother,
But even then,


More than anything, she did it because she was scared
of being forgotten by her mother.
All thoughts and feelings require active effort or else they'll fade away.

ぬっ
WOOM

The light was green.
But the daughter never made it to her mother's home.
Hachikuji
She was so sure
the light was green—

I'm sorry... for not telling you...

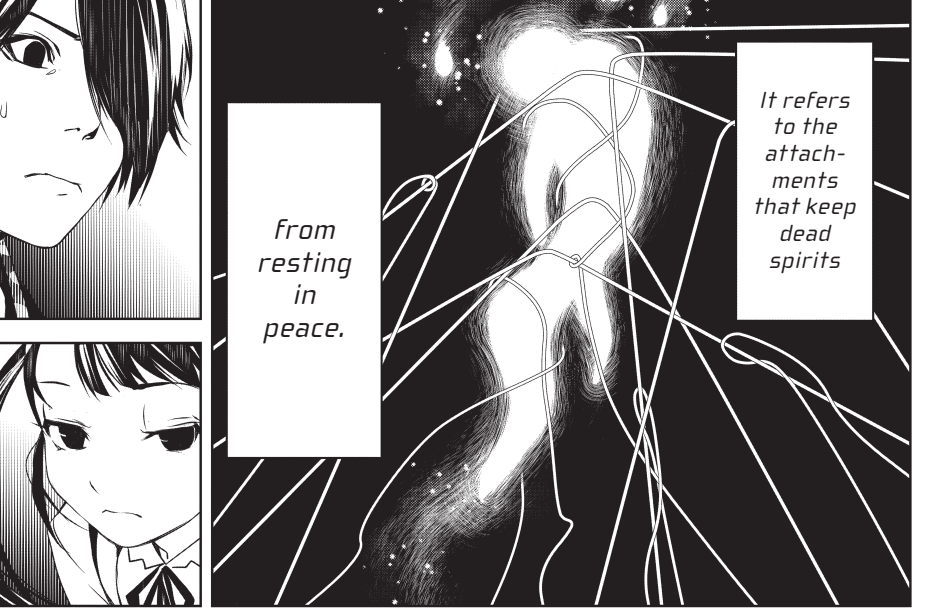
and "essence."

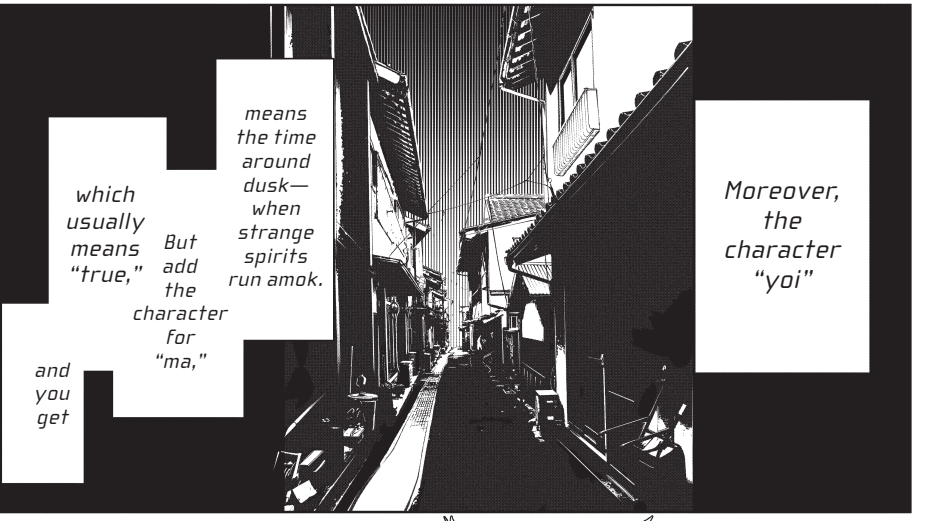
Names describe bodies...

Seeing isn't always believing. And on the flip side, not seeing isn't always believing either, Araragi.

In the past, "Mayoi" was a word that described the warp and weft of textiles fraying and tangling.

Which is why the word can also mean "lost."


It refers to the attach-ments that keep dead spirits
from resting in peace.


Moreover, the character "yoi"
means the time around dusk—when strange spirits run amok.
But add the character for "ma,"
which usually means "true,"
and you get

"true night." The witching hour.

Or so it seems.
But Senjo-gahara, are you really telling me you can't see Hachikuji?
That's right.
And I can't hear her, either.
But you were acting like you...

Oh.
No...
wait. I'm wrong.
She'd said that... from the start ...!!
Class 5-3
NAME
ハ九き
Hey, Senjo-gahara.
See that little kid over there?
How do you read her name...? The name on her tag.
Huh?
I don't see what you're talking about.
All I saw in front of that sign...
was you mumbling to yourself and miming a crazed fight...

Oh yeah. I explained the whole situation to Senjogahara ...
Oh... right.
I guess that's why Senjo-gahara ...

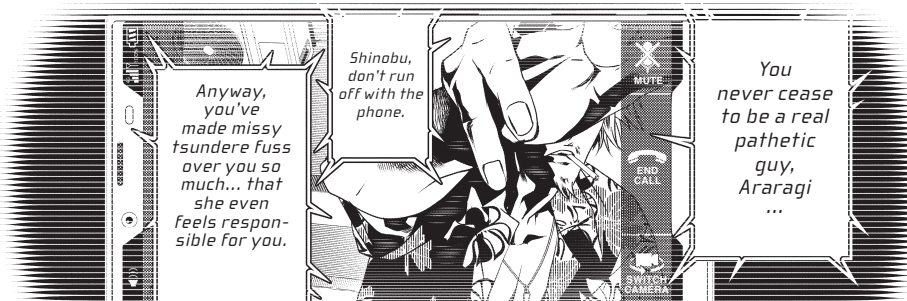
Of course,
I had no idea what you were doing, but then you told me...

didn't take the note from me...
I don't want to touch anything that's touched you.
I thought that she hated me... but she really just couldn't see the note.

There was no way... I could tell you.

But
if you'd just told me that to begin with...
I couldn't.
CRASH

If I can't see what you see,
it's only normal for me to assume
that I'm the strange one for not being able to see it.
Two years.
For more than two years, Hitagi Senjogahara had to live with a crab aberration
that created "discord with those around her."
The thought that she's "abnormal" is hammered into her head.



I bet that was why

Senjo-gahara ... felt like she couldn't say anything.

She'd just thought that *something was wrong with her again.*

But she didn't want to think it—she didn't want to believe it.

SQUEEZE

You never cease to be a real pathetic guy, Araragi ...

Shinobu, don't run off with the phone.

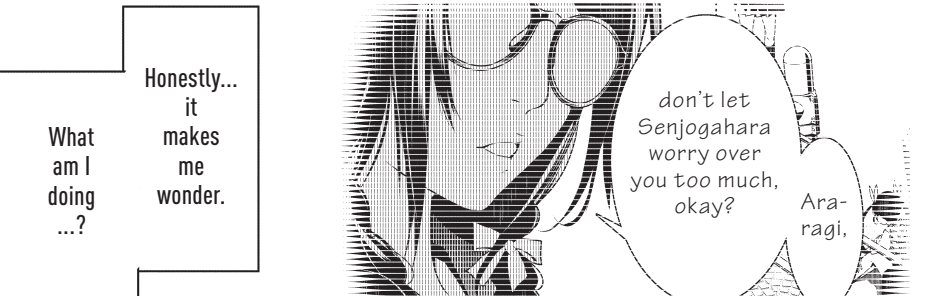
Anyway, you've made missy tsundere fuss over you so much... that she even feels responsible for you.

MUTE

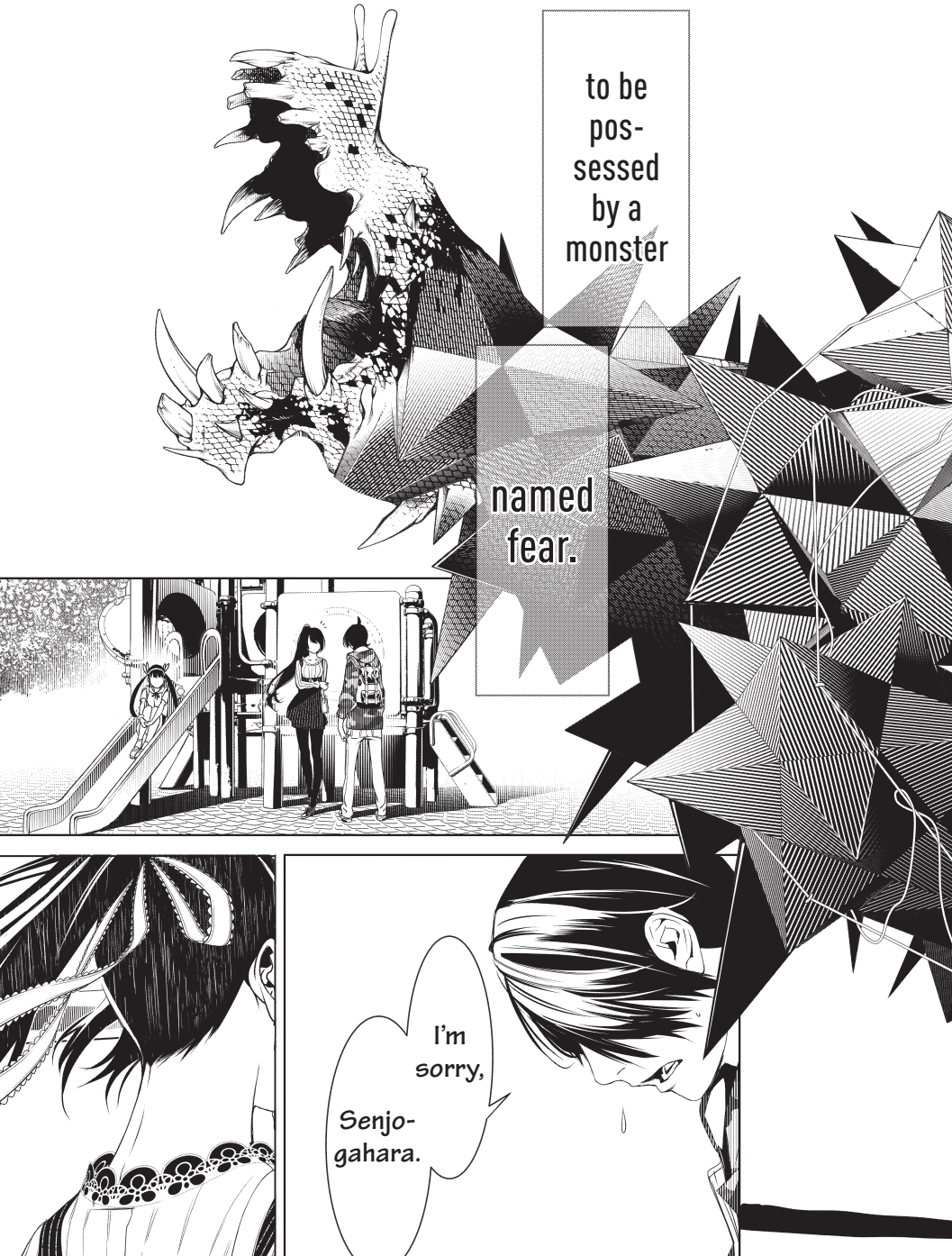
END CALL

SWITCH CAMERA

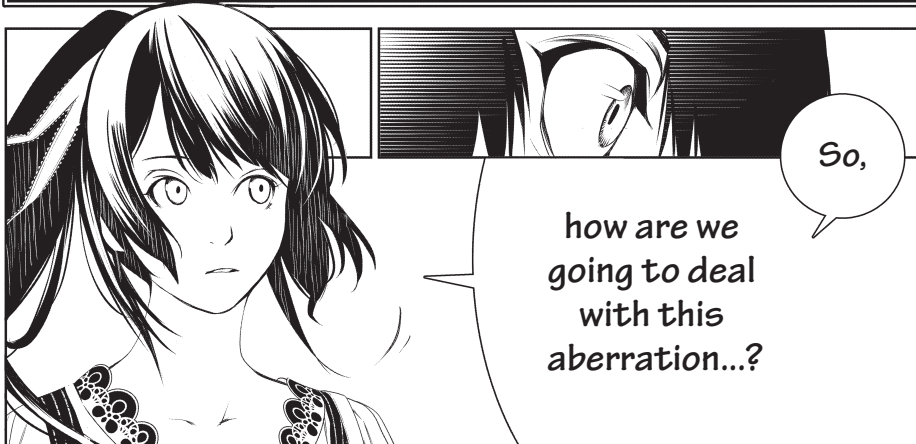
She was afraid
SCHOO ROAD
Aberration
that I would leave her behind.


What am I doing ...?
Honestly... it makes me wonder.
don't let Senjogahara worry over you too much, okay?
Ara-ragi,

If I get involved with an aberration,
that is my problem alone.
That's... what I thought.
But it turns out I was wrong.
I've forced Senjo-gahara to take on the cost and the *burden* of it all...


to be pos-
sessed by a monster
named fear.
I'm sorry, Senjo-gahara.

HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME SAY IT, ARARAGI? I WANT TO HELP YOU.



That... is what we were dealing with.
Right.
LOST
Hachikuji didn't cross an aberration,
she's an aberration *herself*.
But she's right.
I'm a lost snail.
Right... that must be it.
Hachikuji said so herself... from the beginning...
So I was the one who encountered the aberration...

Child aberrations... little girls, in particular, are apparently quite common.
They're so common that even I know a few.
Like the ghost in the kimono who makes travelers lose their way in the mountains,
or the girl who sneaks into groups of playing children and snatches one up at the end.
Mister Oshino said that
to meet a Lost Cow,
Watch for Snails

you have to wish... not to return home.
I don't want to go home
DO NOT PROCEED
STOP
DEAD END

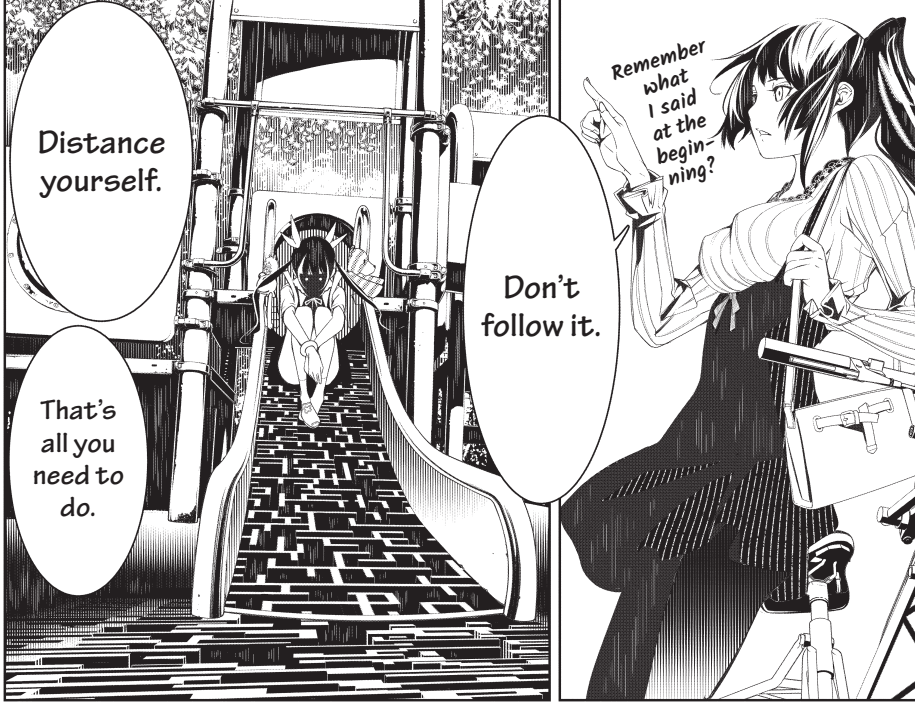
It might sound too bleak to be called a "wish,"
but we've all wished that before. We all have issues at home.

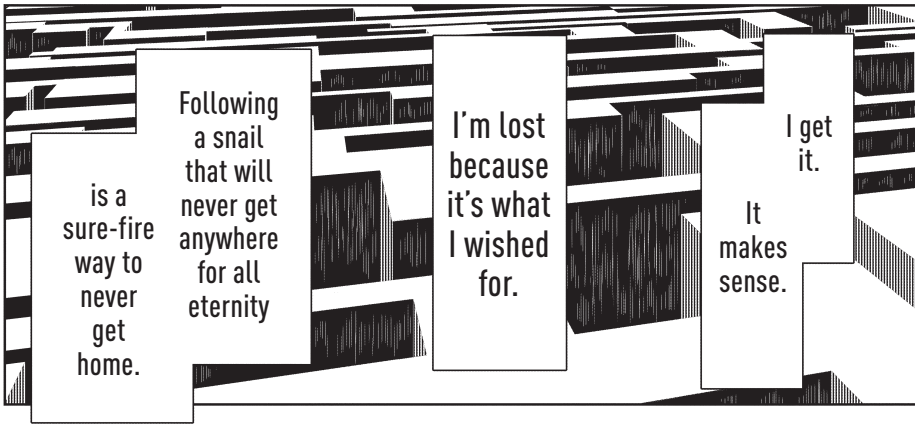
Right... that goes for her, too.
Oh!!
Tsubasa Hane-kawa!!
"I take walks on Sun-days."
Her wish "not to go home" was just as strong as... no, it was *way* stronger than mine.
That's why she could see Hachi-kuji.
She saw her, touched her, spoke to her.
RUB
RUB

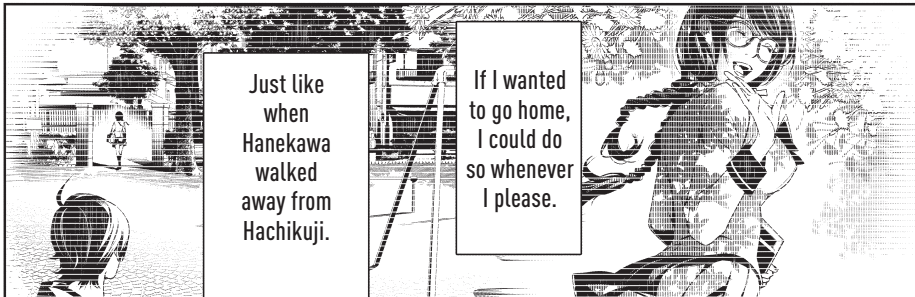
同じ
Same
"It's the same as the crab."
Yes.
AN ABER-RATION THAT GRANTS A WISH,
huh...
A "wish" ...
it sounds nice when you put it that way,
but you could also call it taking advantage of someone's weakness.

Well ...
she's not wrong.
I can wish all I want,
but I have to go home eventually.
it's not like you really don't want to go back home, right?
I mean ...

In the end,
no matter what kind of place it is,
home is the only place you can return to.
But... that's exactly why
it's so easy to deal with a Lost Cow.


Distance yourself.
That's all you need to do.
Don't follow it.
Remember what I said at the beginning?


is a sure-fire way to never get home.
Following a snail that will never get anywhere for all eternity
I'm lost because it's what I wished for.
I get it.
It makes sense.


Just like when Hanekawa walked away from Hachikuji.
If I wanted to go home, I could do so whenever I please.

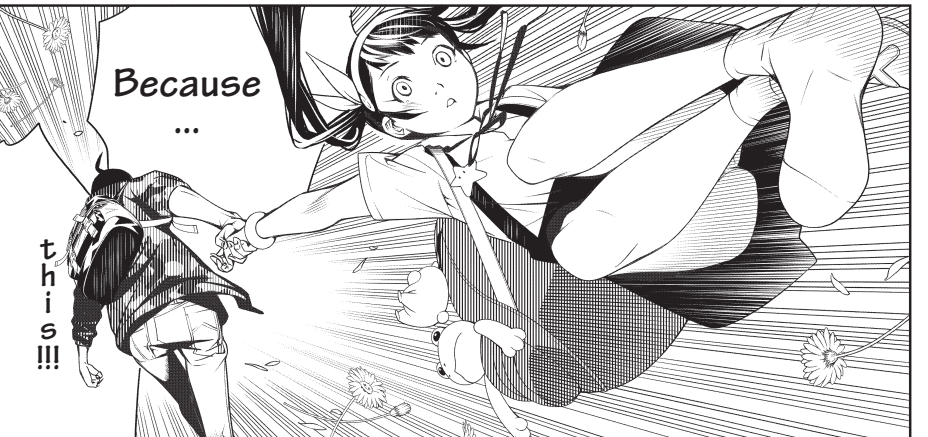
Trick or Treat
NOT DISAPPEAR
SURPRISED?
It's not a particularly malicious or powerful aberration. It's not all that harmful.
A Lost Cow plays pranks and it's a little mysterious... but that's it.
So...
So?

So what,
Senjo-gahara?

that's not what I wanted you to ask Oshino...!
but
I didn't ask you to get an etymological explanation!
and gives me a neat little explanation for the things that have been bothering me,
That's not it. Not it at all.
Your story certainly adds up

If I'd wanted an explanation like that...
I wouldn't have sent you all the way to Oshino's ...!!

Then
why did you...?

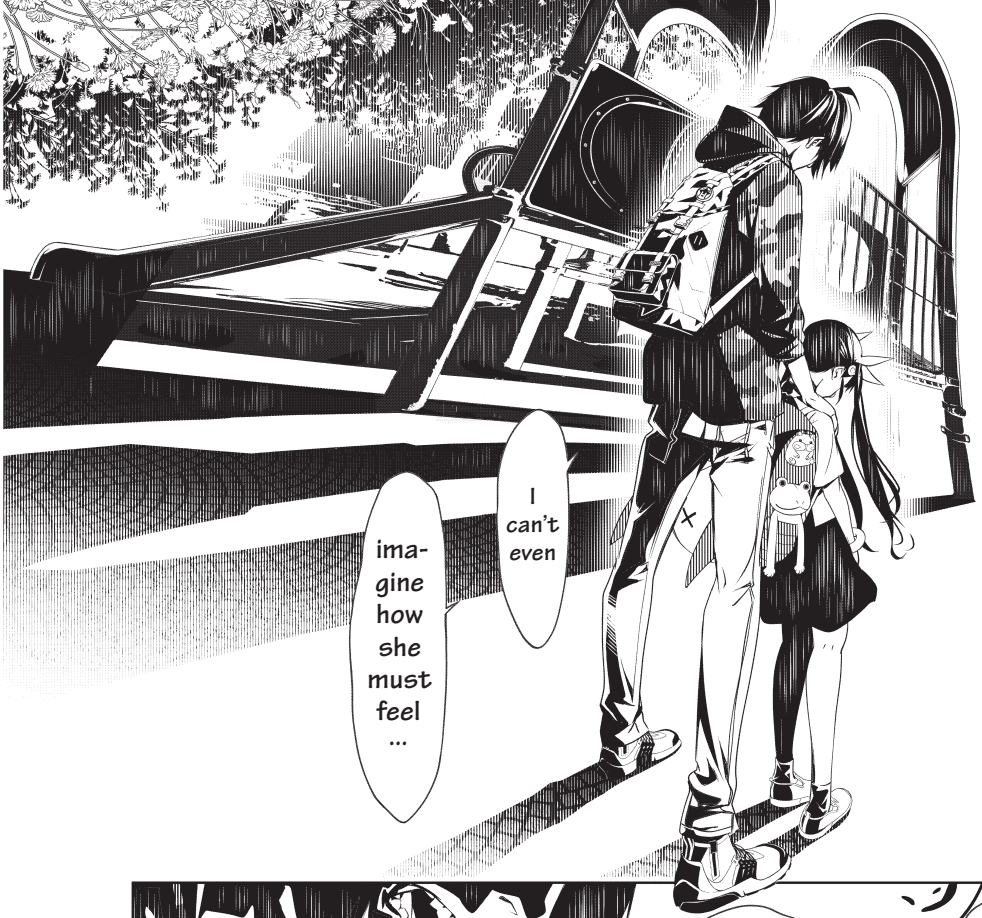

Because ...
this !!!

IT'S ABOUT THIS KID!! HACHIKUJI !!
WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO BRING HER BACK TO HER MOTHER —
AND THAT'S IT!!
THAT'S ALL IT'S BEEN ABOUT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!!
THAT IS WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW!!

It's not about Koyomi Araragi. It's about Mayoi Hachikuji and no one else.
Don't you get it, Araragi?
That girl... isn't there.
She's already ... dead.
She's not there
or anywhere else.
SO WHAT ?!
she's an aberration herself—
She's not possessed by an aberration...
If you think I should distance myself from her...
then you're wrong.

I... won't walk away from her.

I don't like you.
Please don't speak to me.
Having to tell every single person you meet to go away,
Do you know how it feels, Senjo-gahara?!
having to bite any hand that strokes your head...

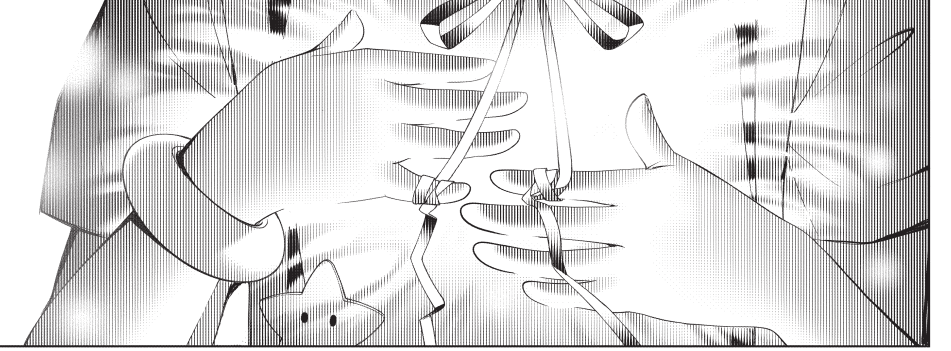

I can't even
ima-gine how she must feel ...

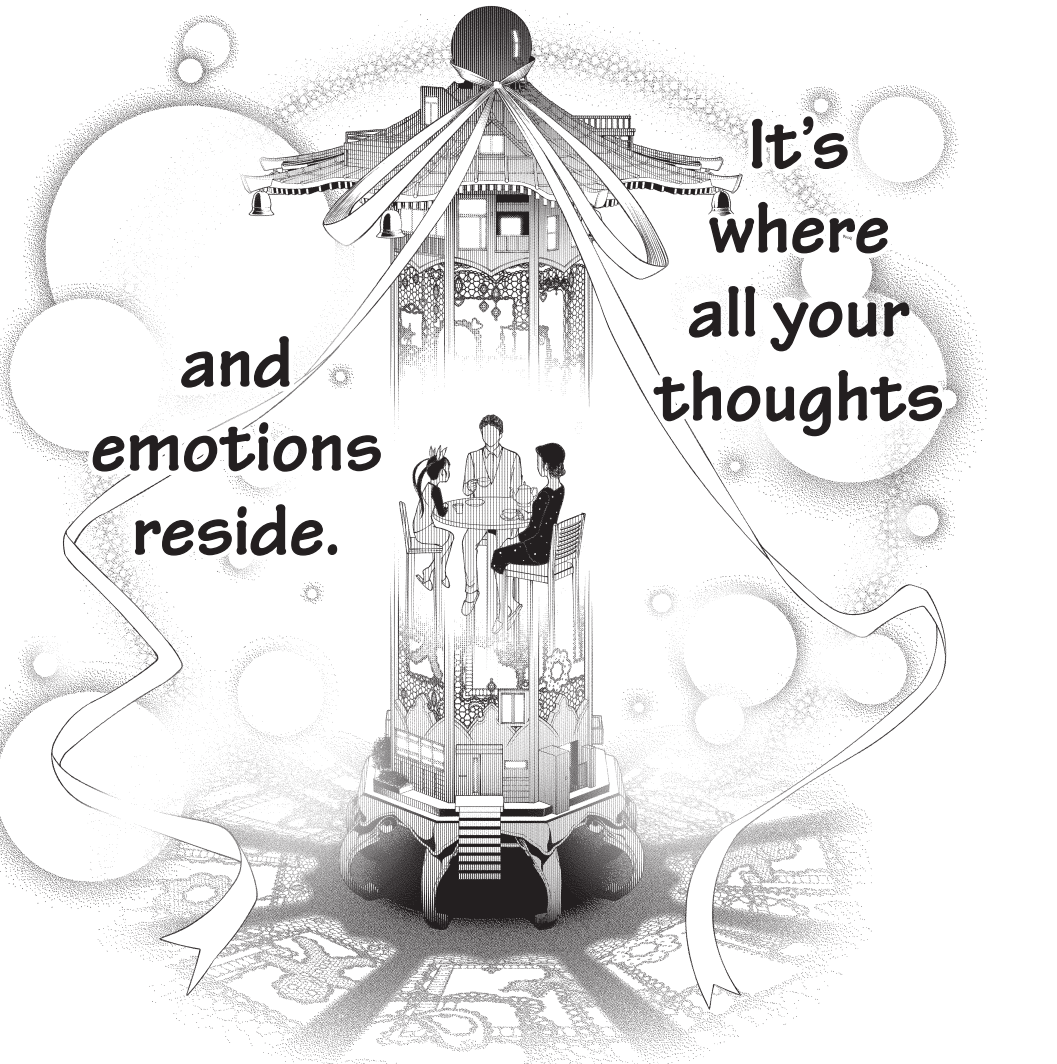
We're... the same, aren't we...?
But even so...

and you're standing there, alone, don't you think
When you lose your way

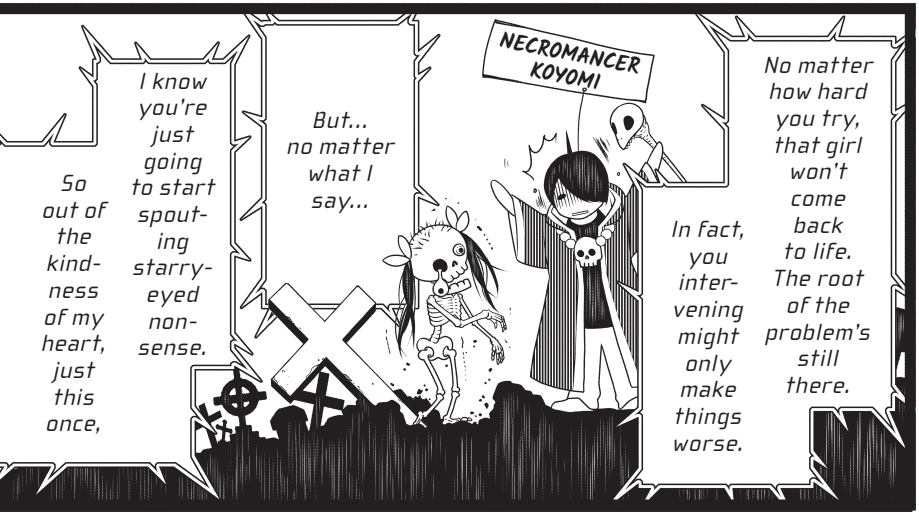
That's why
I can never say... that I don't rely on anyone.
Crowd
おかしいのは自分だから
I'm the strange one.
Individual
Crowd
おかしいのは自分だから
I'm the strange one.
Individual
Isn't it the same for you,
Senjo-gahara?

So ...
I don't know if she's a Lost Cow or a snail or whatever...
and I know that you
and Hachi-kuji's mother
can't see her... or even smell her,
but I'm going to find her a place to call home.
Mister Arya-ryagi...
I'll bring her
to her mother's safe and sound—
that is my duty.
After all,
the place you call "home"
isn't just a physical or architectural thing, right?




It's where all your thoughts
and emotions reside.

...
I thought... you might say that.
But I have one last message from Mister Oshino.

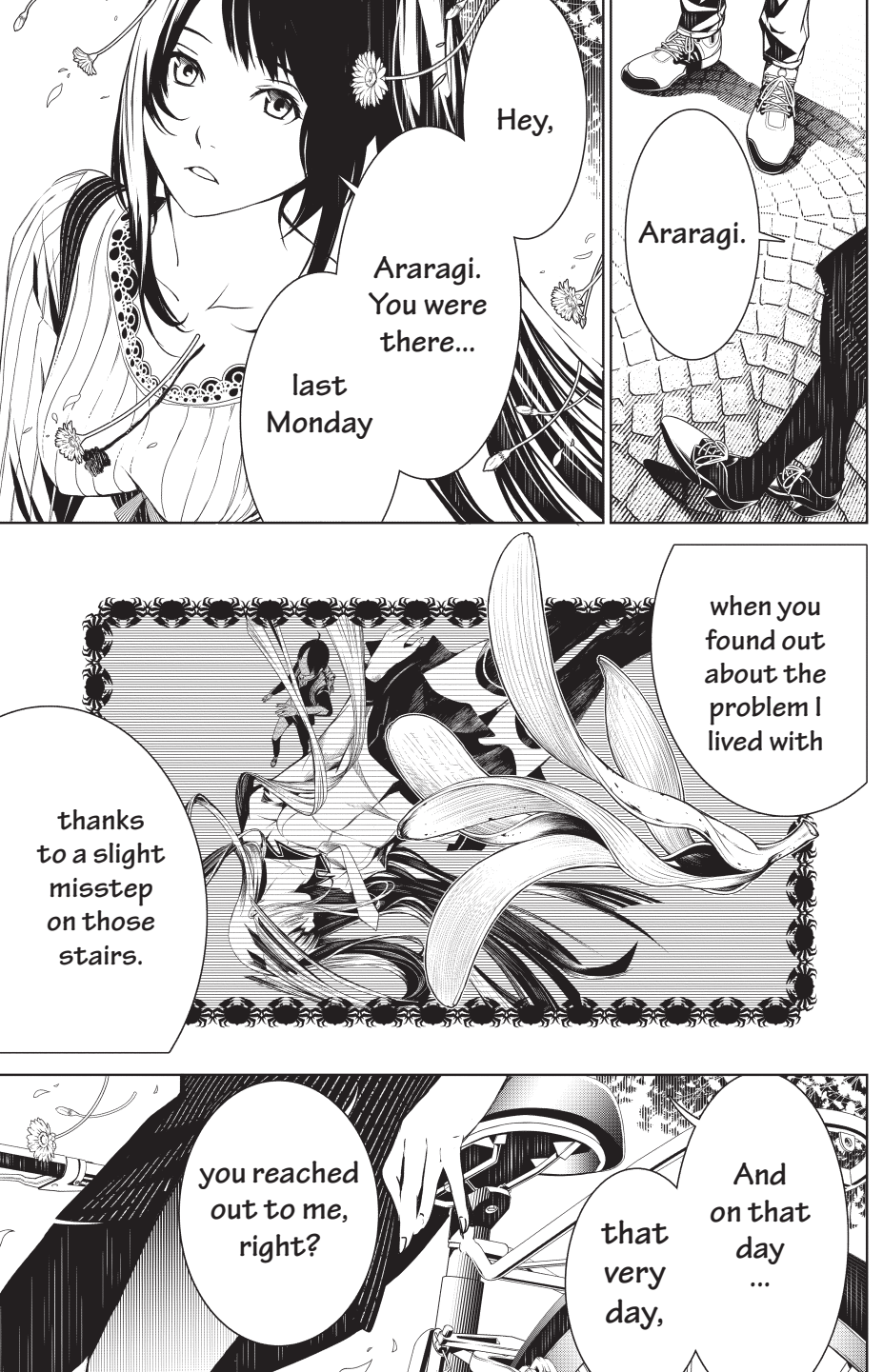


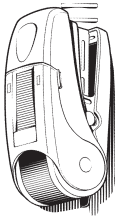
I'll teach you a little trick.

I have no idea what he thinks he's doing with his life.
He really does know our every move.
BEEP
STOP PLAYING
A "trick" ...?
Oshino.
No, I don't want that,
But, if there is a path to salvation out there,
I'm not planning to do anything as grand as save Hachikuji.

I want to be there
to help her find it. What's so wrong about that?
I'm finally starting to get you, Araragi.
IT LOOKS LIKE
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, ARARAGI.

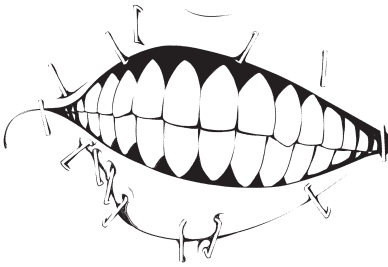
About what ?
?
SKWEEK
SKWEEP
No, not wrong. I had a creeping— or rather *nagging*— feeling about it.
You can say that I am no longer under any illusions,
I suppose.


Hey,
Araragi. You were there...
last Monday
Araragi.
when you found out about the problem I lived with
thanks to a slight misstep on those stairs.
you reached out to me, right?
that very day,
And on that day ...



Actually, there isn't a single thing to gain from saving a girl who'd staple a person's mouth shut.

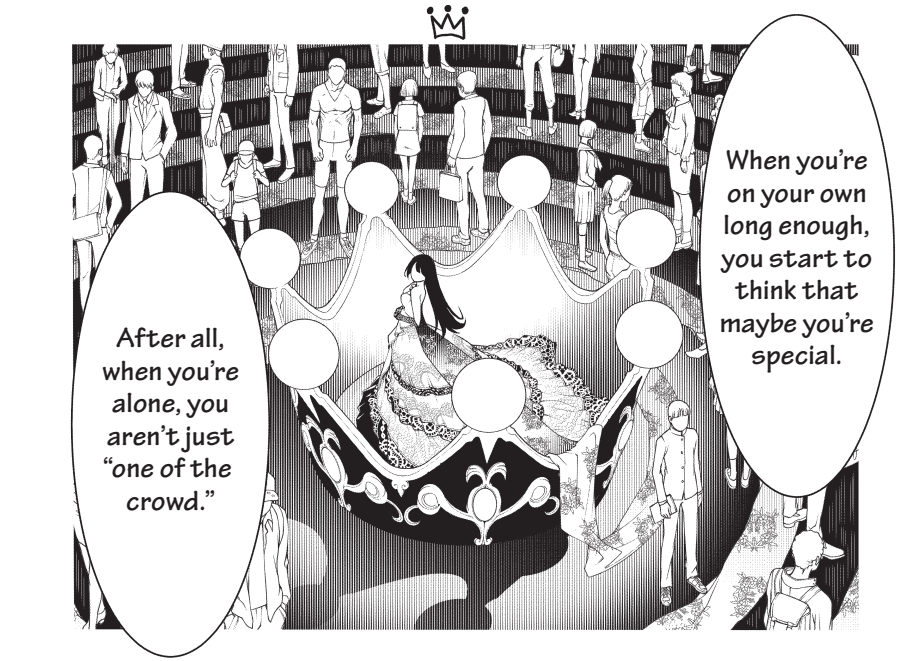
I mean, why would you? It's not like you'd benefit from it or anything.



I thought... you might have saved me... because it was me.
...
But that wasn't it.
It seems I was wrong.
Basi-cally ...

you would save anyone, Ara-ragi.
Wouldn't you?
Save ...? Hold on ...
Don't exaggerate so much. I didn't do anything special. Anyone would've done what I did in that situation...
Look, you even said it yourself. I just happened to have a similar problem... and I just happened to know Oshino.
I wonder ...
even if you hadn't had a similar problem or known Mister Oshino,
you still would have done what you did for me... right? At least that's how Mister Oshino made it sound.

What did that bastard tell her...?!
A bunch of lies peppered with half-truths, I'm sure.
At the very least,
I wouldn't think to talk to a grade schooler just because I saw her standing in front of a residential map twice.
...Huh.
Really ...?

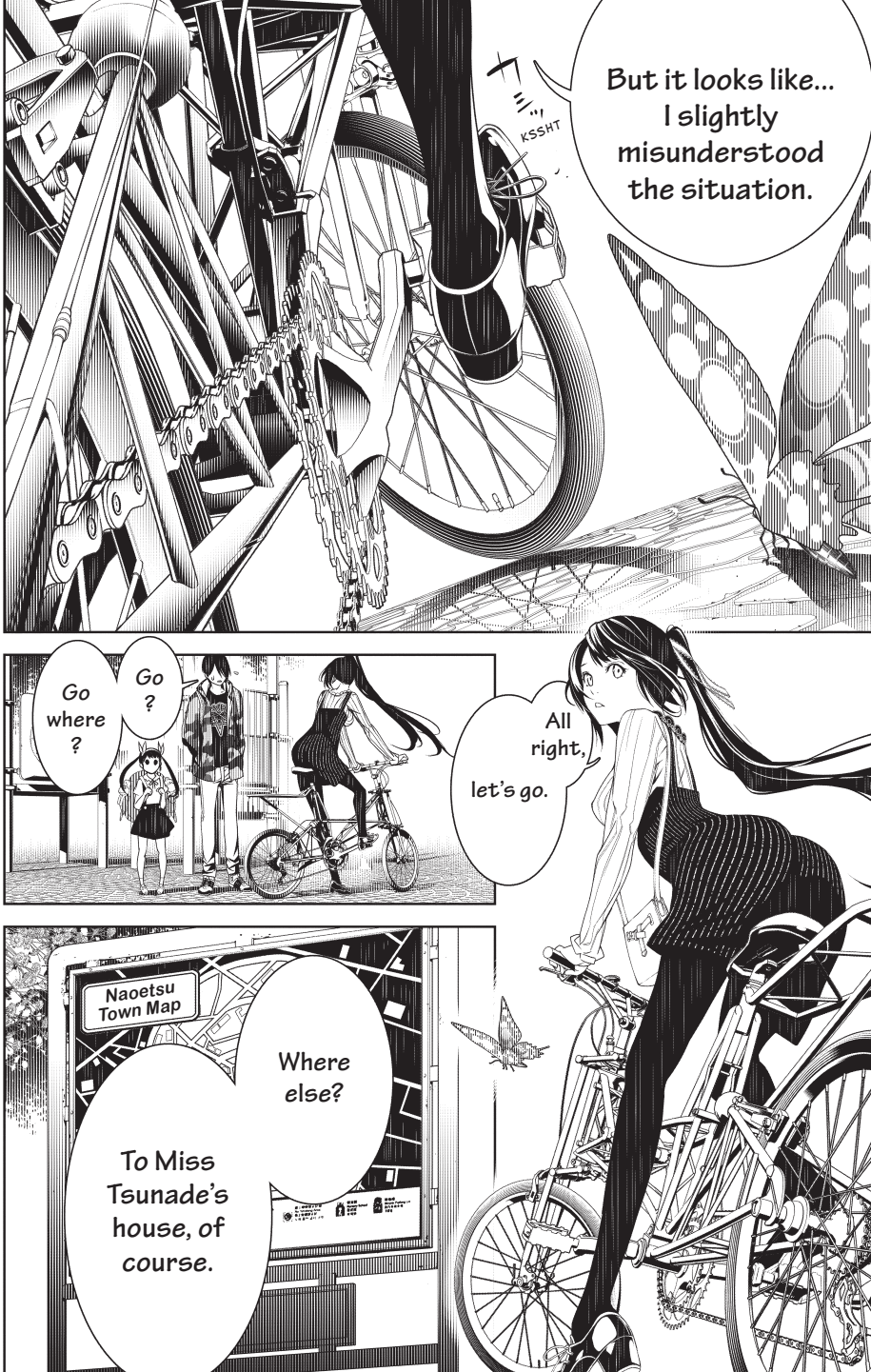

When you're on your own long enough, you start to think that maybe you're special.
After all, when you're alone, you aren't just "one of the crowd."

But
that's because ... you can't join them.
It's funny, really.
All it means is that you can never be one of them, and that's it.

THUNK
That's why
but the only one who did anything was you, Araragi.
Actually, plenty of people noticed my problem,

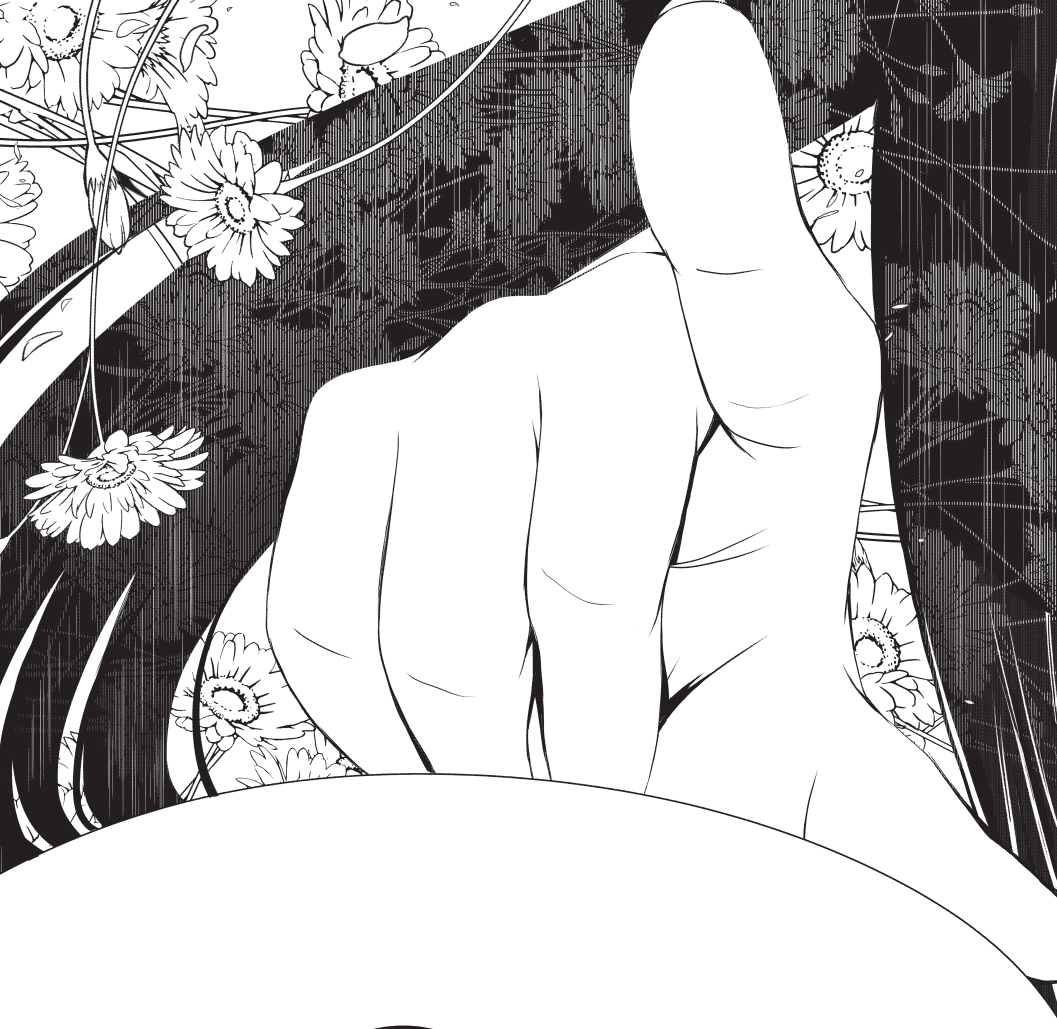
I've been having all kinds of fantasies about you this week.

Huh?! Like what ?!
HEH!
Oh, what a satisfying week it was.
...

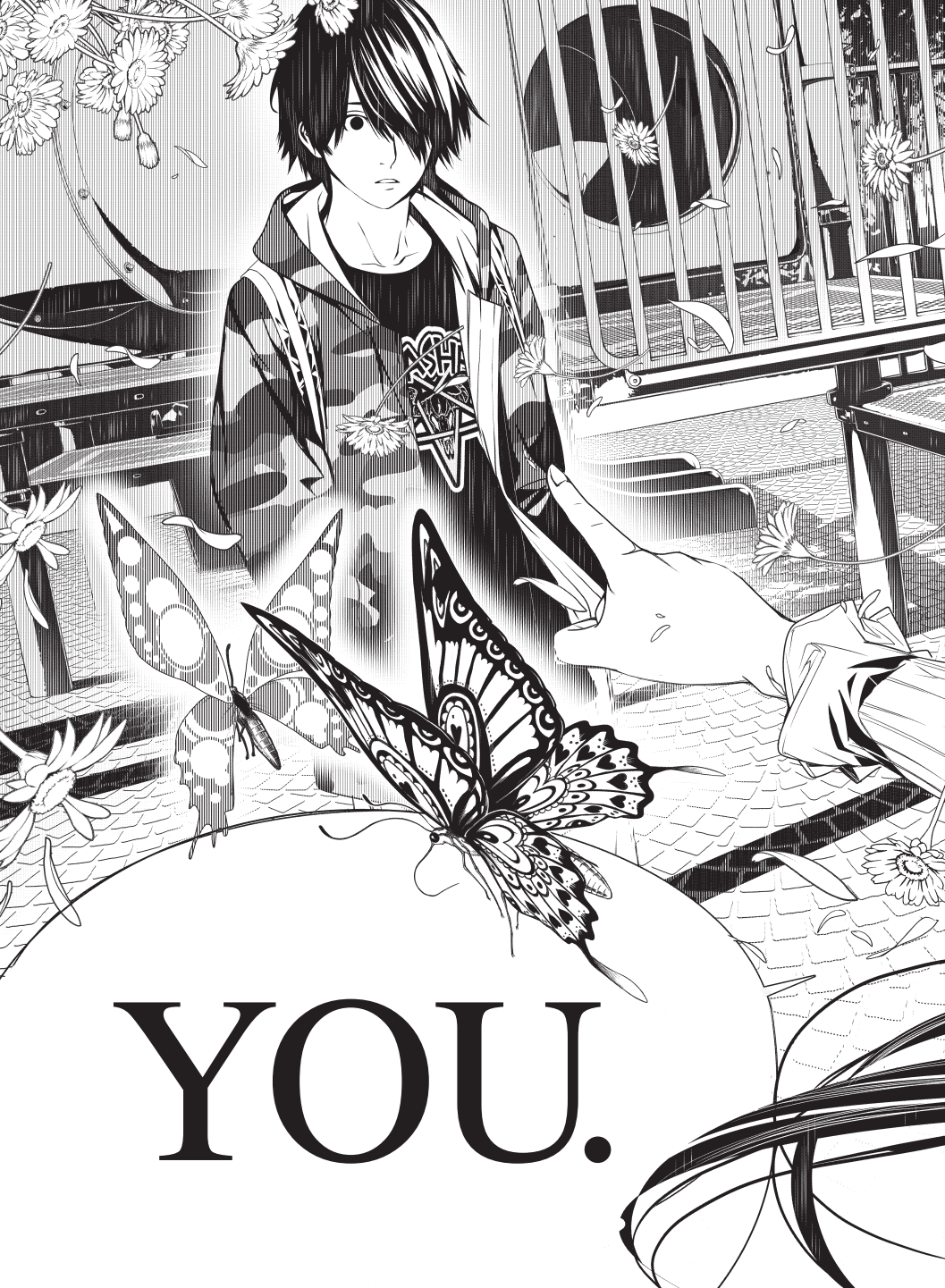

But it looks like... I slightly misunderstood the situation.
KSSHT
All right, let's go.
Go where?
Go?
Naoetsu Town Map
Where else?
To Miss Tsunade's house, of course.

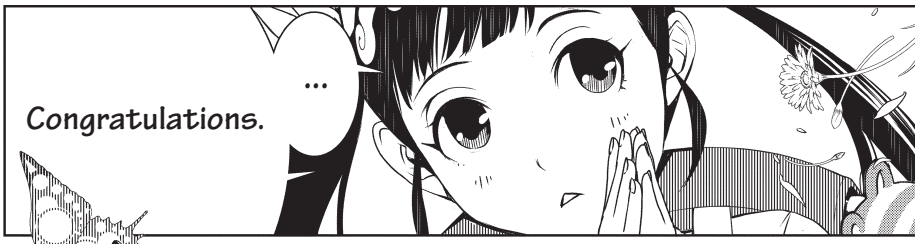
We're taking Hachikuji there, the good Samaritans we are.
So follow me.
I'll show you the little "trick" Mister Oshino taught me.
Oh.
And Araragi ?
Huh ?

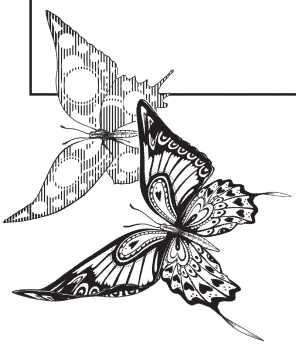
I



LOVE


YOU.





I LOVE YOU.

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

MAYOIsnail

3

語 *gatari*

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

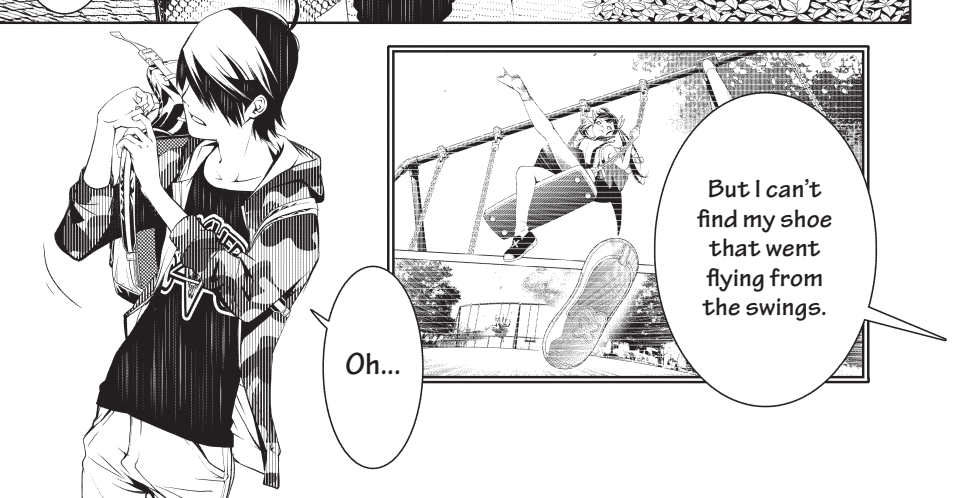
MAYOIsnail

3

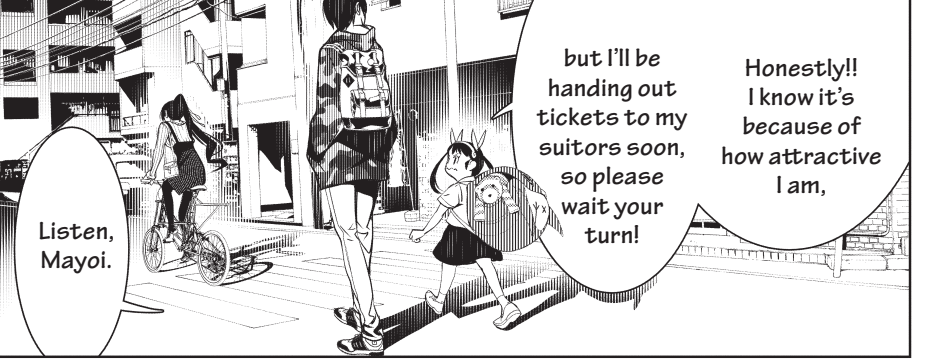
語 *gatari*

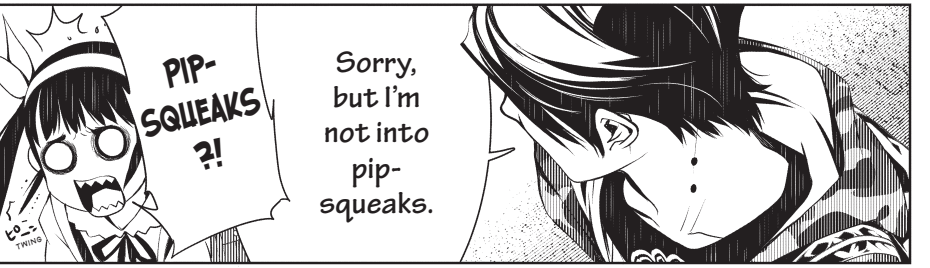
BAKEMONOGATARI

Hey, Hachikuji.
We're leaving.

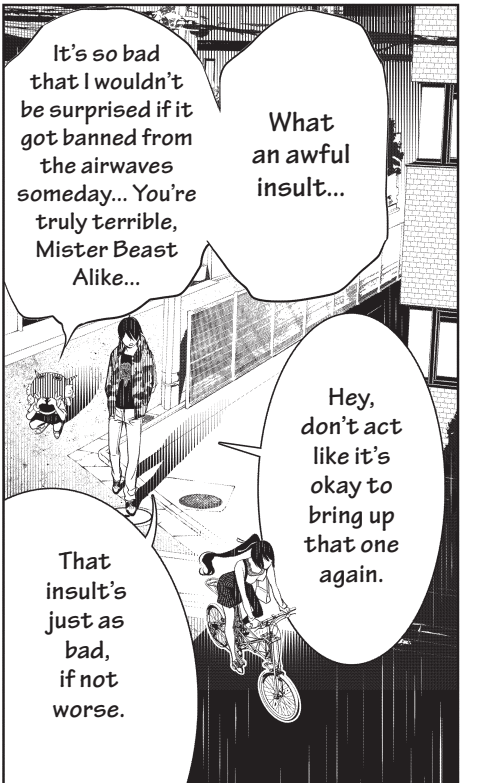

But I can't find my shoe that went flying from the swings.
Oh...

AAAGH
WHY WAS MY SHOE IN YOUR BACKPACK, MISTER ARARAGI?!
Here ya go.
WERE YOU PLANNING ON TAKING IT HOME IF I HADN'T SAID ANYTHING ?!
Don't make me out to be such an awful guy.
There are a lot of perverts in the world, you know.
I was just holding onto it to make sure that none of them grabbed it.
COULD ONE OF THOSE PERVERTS BE THE CAMOUFLAGE HOODIE-WEARING HIGH SCHOOLER STANDING IN FRONT OF ME?!
Hey, Senjogahara! Don't leave us behind.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!


Listen, Mayoi.
but I'll be handing out tickets to my suitors soon, so please wait your turn!
Honestly!! I know it's because of how attractive I am,


PIP-SQUEAKS ?!
Sorry, but I'm not into pip-squeaks.

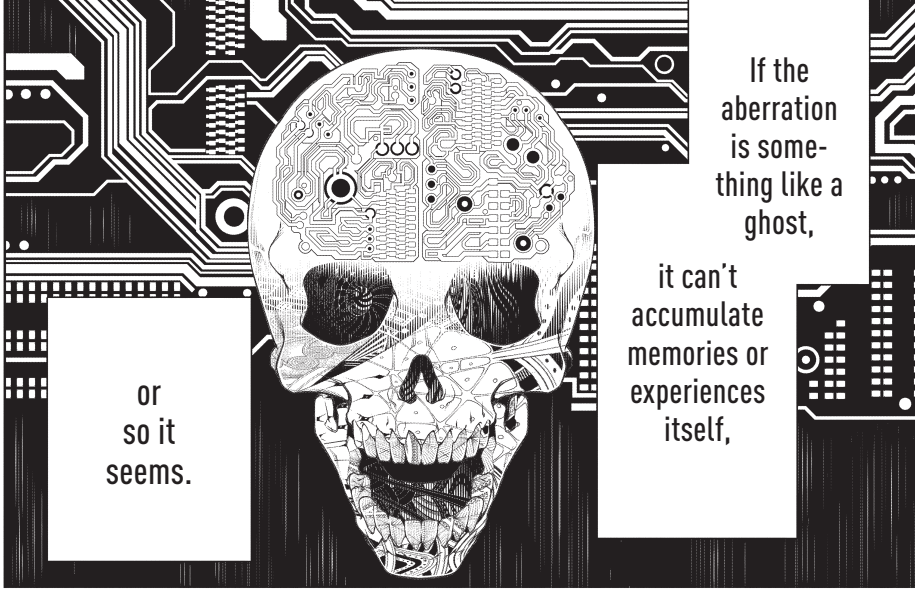
Fine, then. I'll call you MISTER MAN ALIKE.
THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE I'M NOT EVEN HUMAN!

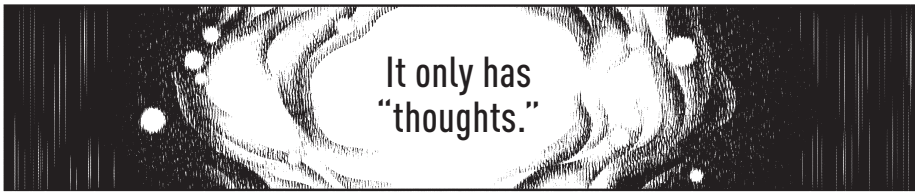

It's so bad that I wouldn't be surprised if it got banned from the airwaves someday... You're truly terrible, Mister Beast Alike...
What an awful insult...
Hey, don't act like it's okay to bring up that one again.
That insult's just as bad, if not worse.

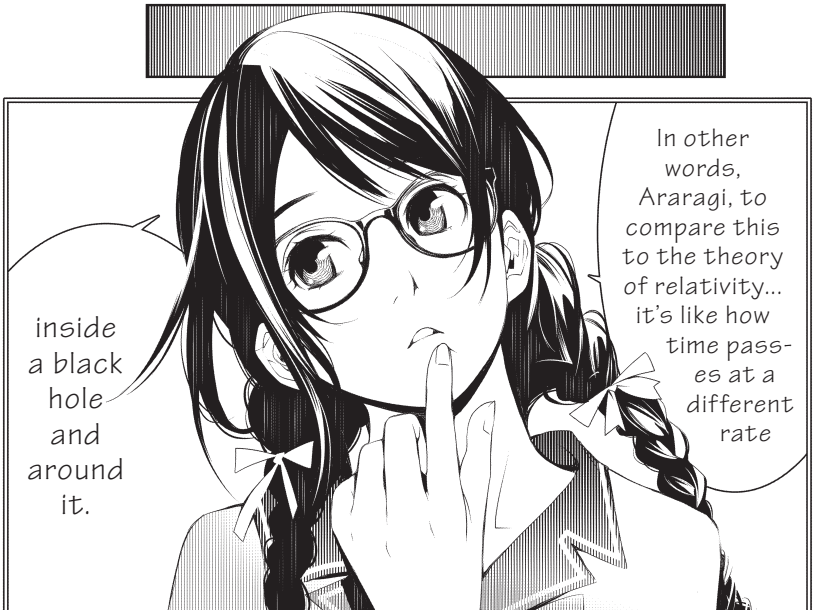
Perhaps

we were being a little too lighthearted.
This is it.
We're here.

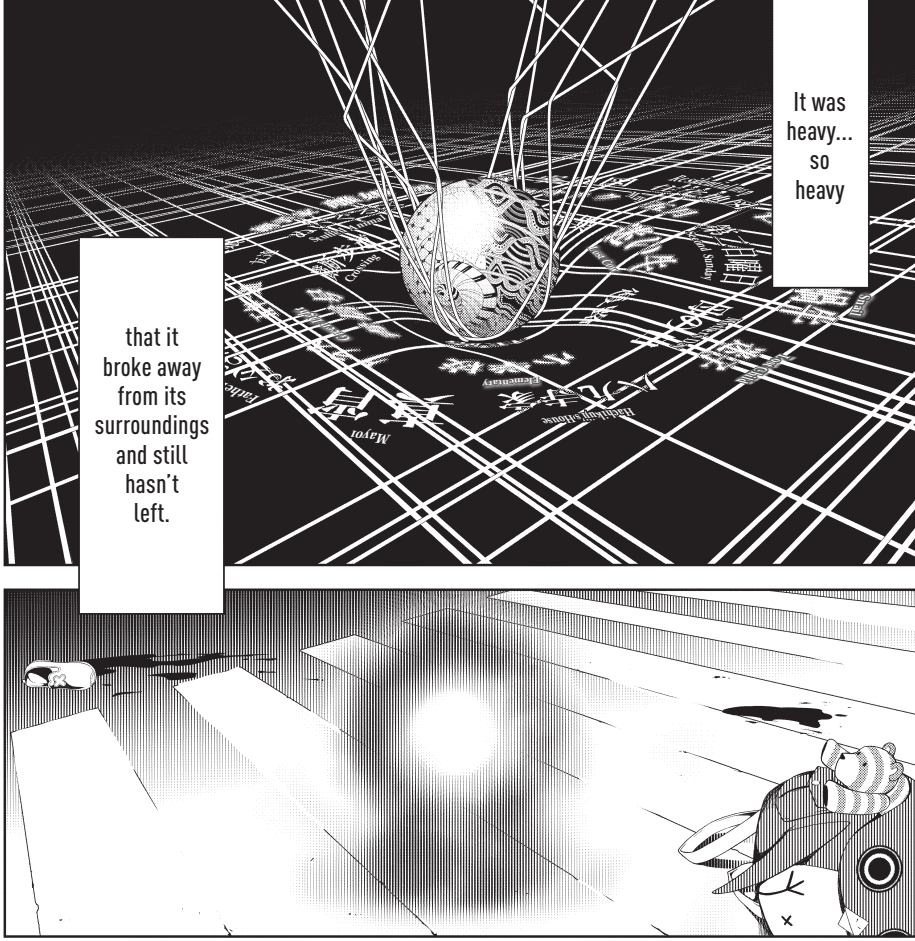
Even though Mèmè Oshino's
"one-time trick"
may have eaten up a little time,
and even though we could've gone about 500 meters
for less than 10 minutes instead of the hour plus his trick took,
Park
500m
Destination
we easily ... and truly suddenly ...
reached the address on Hachi-kuji's note.
GOAL!!
congratulations!

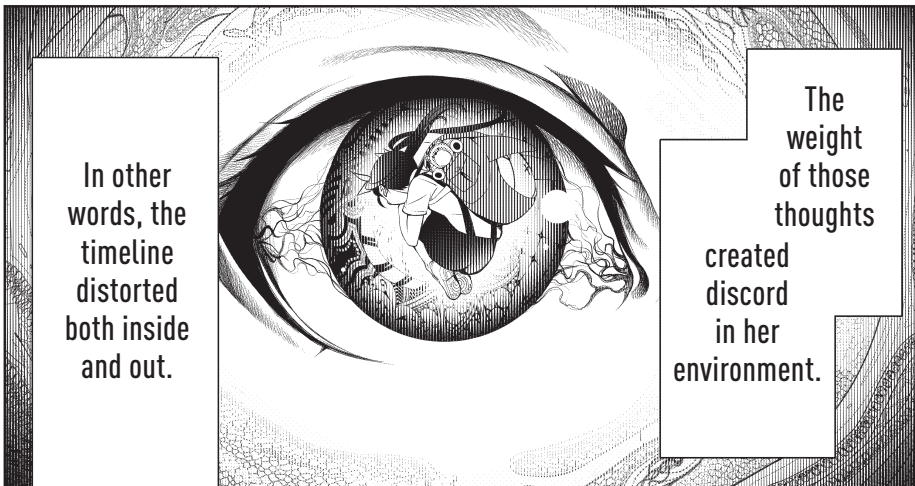

If the aberration is something like a ghost,
it can't accumulate memories or experiences itself,
or so it seems.


It only has "thoughts."


In other words, Araragi, to compare this to the theory of relativity... it's like how time passes at a different rate
inside a black hole and around it.

In a black hole, gravity is so heavy that it slows its own movements.
That's because time refers to changes in space.
Compared to the exterior of a black hole, time essentially stops in its center.
For some reason, I remember... Hanekawa once telling me that.
"Relativity."
When Hachikuji's physical body was lost to the accident,
WOOM
something was left behind, bound by her name.
It was "desire"
...or something like that.


It was heavy... so heavy
that it broke away from its surroundings and still hasn't left.


In other words, the timeline distorted both inside and out.
The weight of those thoughts created discord in her environment.

"Always a child," you say.
She will never "grow up."
"Always a child," you say.
Until someone steps in and finds Hachikuji,
it's the same as her *not existing at all.*
Then you're just like me.
up— that I'll always be a child.
She will "always be a child" frozen in time ...!!
If she were alive, Hachikuji would be older than Senjogahara and me...
yet she has no "incremental memories."
She has no memory of the "outside world" that's always changing at a dizzying pace.

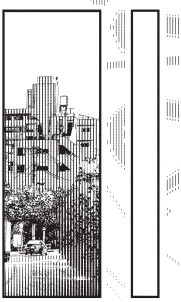
And so,
Hachikuji doesn't know about any new streets that were made for town planning.
But we have the fresh, black asphalt.
As long as we follow it like some sort of treasure map...

Her powers as a snail aberration won't help you that much. No, not "won't,"
but
can't.
A Lost Cow plays pranks and it's a little mysterious... but that's it.
Ara-ragi.
Hey, Ara-ragi.

You know,
I'm pretty sure that's what it is.
I mean, aren't people you don't know the same as people who don't exist?
Time that isn't shared
is just time... that never existed.
So, that person... that someone...
when they find their special someone ...
when they find me,

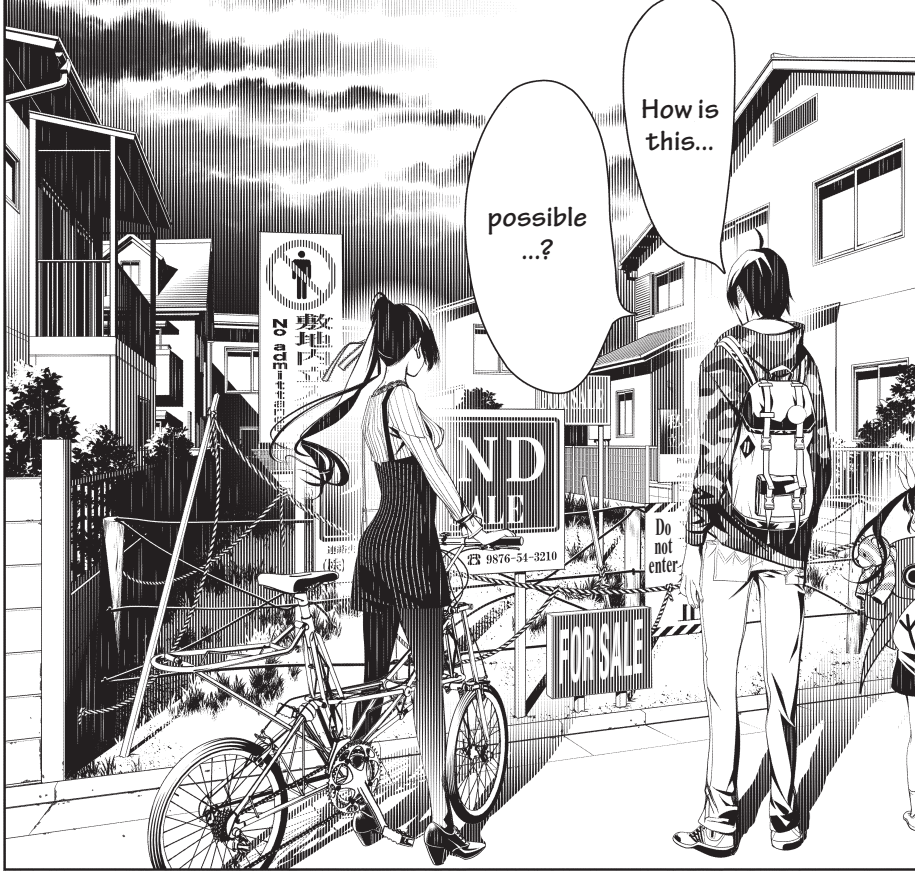
the pair will finally have the time to be together.

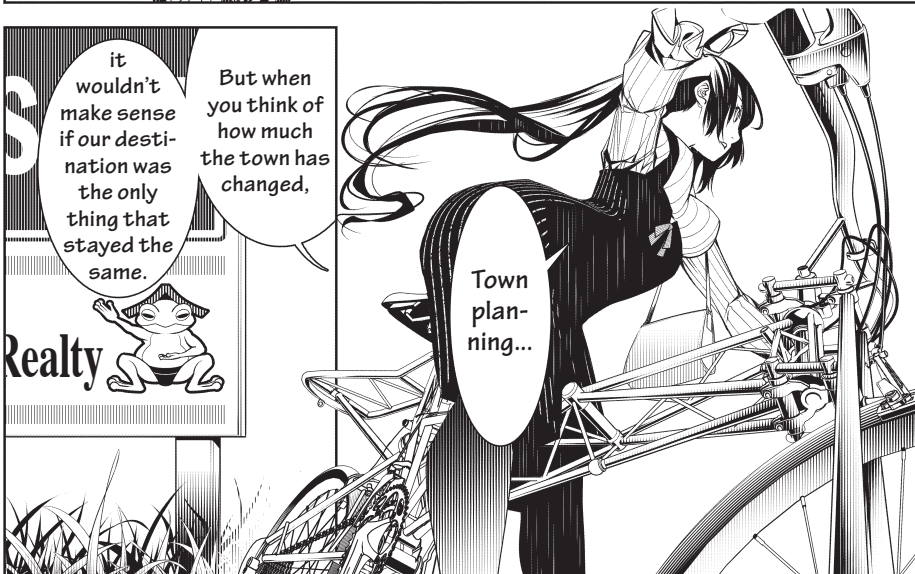
Hey...
Senjo-gahara.

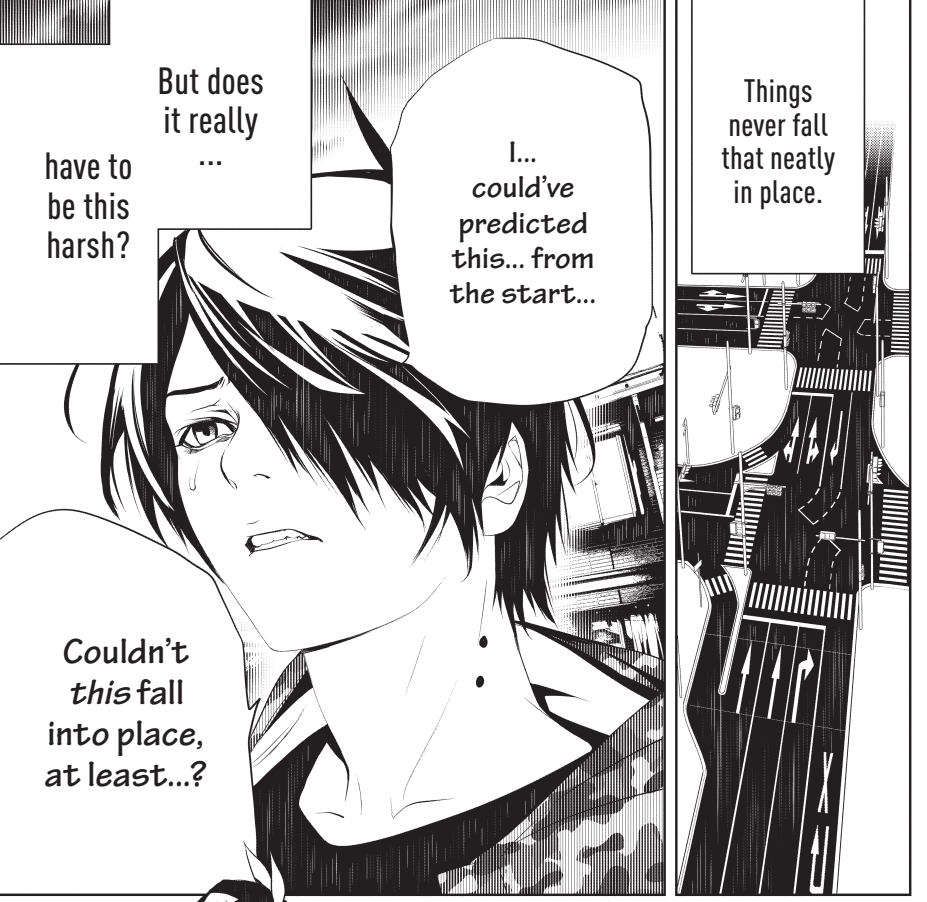


Yes... I'm sure of it.

Is this really the place ...?


How is this...
possible ...?
敷地内
No admittance
ND
ALE
Do not enter
FOR SALE
9876-54-3210


Town planning...
But when you think of how much the town has changed,
it wouldn't make sense if our destination was the only thing that stayed the same.
Realty

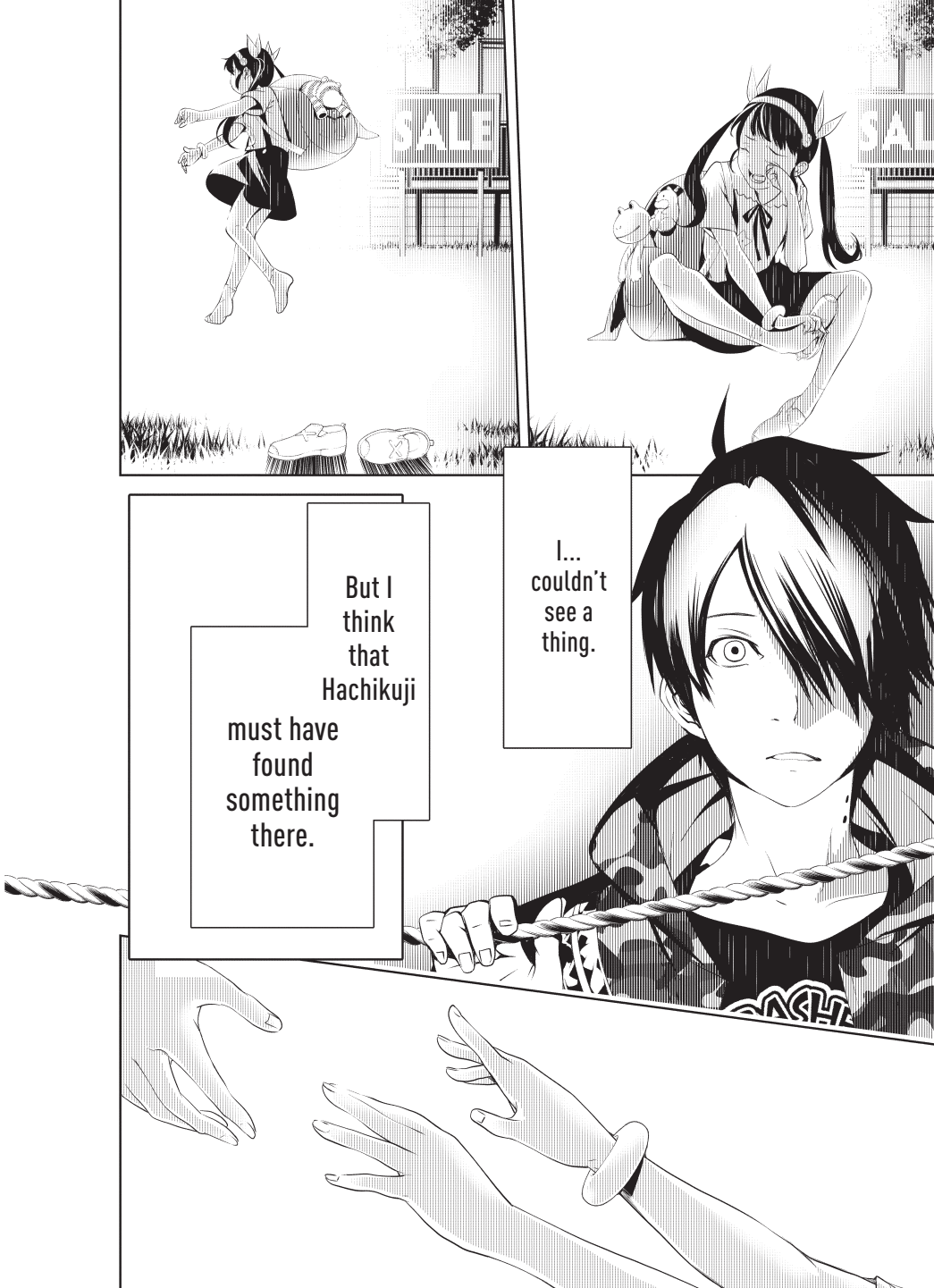


Was it all for nothing?

Wa
—
aa
—
aa
—
If the very place
the Lost Cow was trying to get to is gone,
then Hachikuji really is a lost snail... forever drifting, spiraling round and round with no end in sight.
Is the world ...
really this cruel ...?

What a disaster.
Aaahhh!
Ah!
Ah!
Ah—
Ah...
KEEP
HACHI-
KUJI!!
Hachi-
kuji...

I'M
BACK!!
I'M
HOME!!

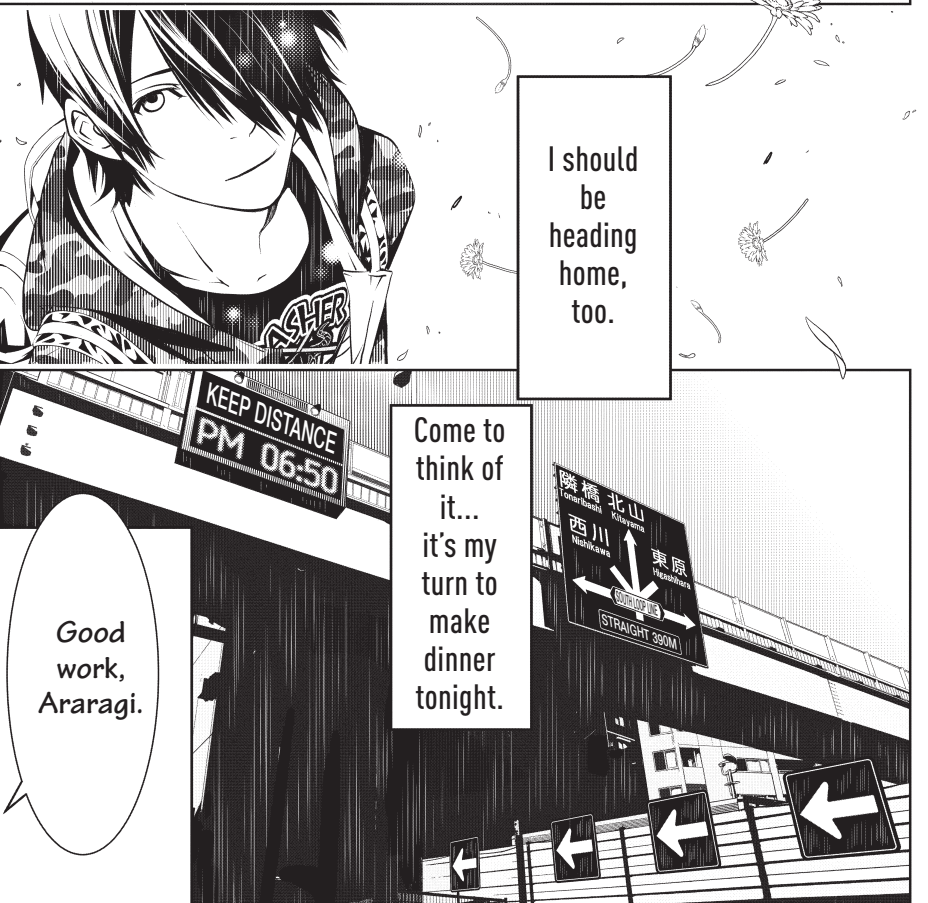

SALE
I... couldn't see a thing.
But I think that Hachikuji must have found something there.

In place of Hachikuji's frozen time,
a new time had begun.

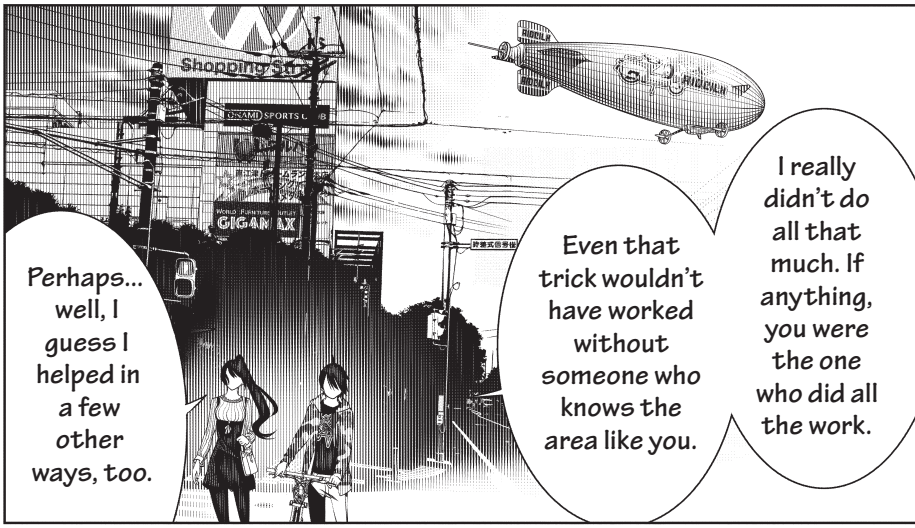
Did ... the girl say some-thing?
Yeah. She said, "I'm home."
I see ...
敷地内立入禁止
NO TRESPASSING
LAND FOR SALE
KEEP OUT
Do not enter
NO ENTR
You know, that's a really wonderful story.

Hachi-kuji... made it back safely

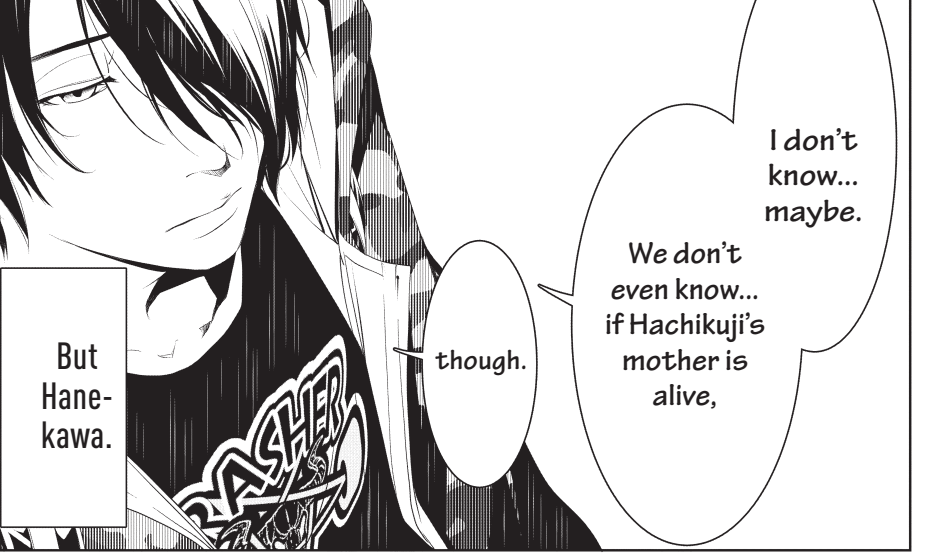
to where her emotions reside.

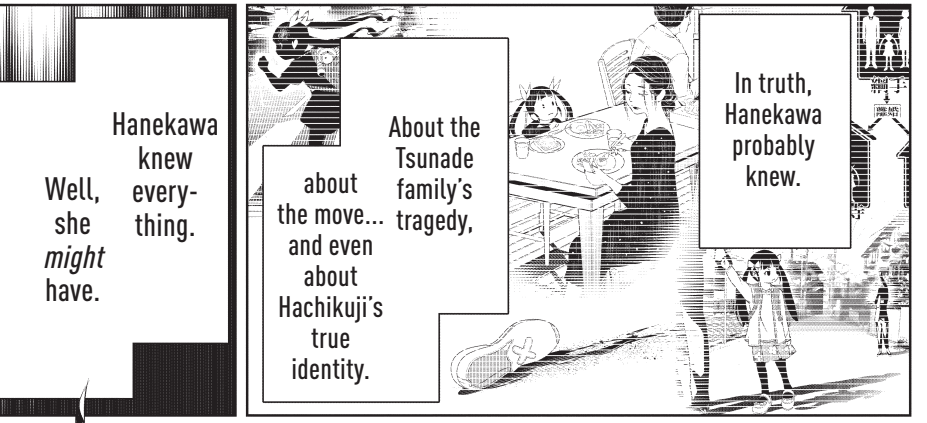


You looked halfway cool there.
By your standards, that is.

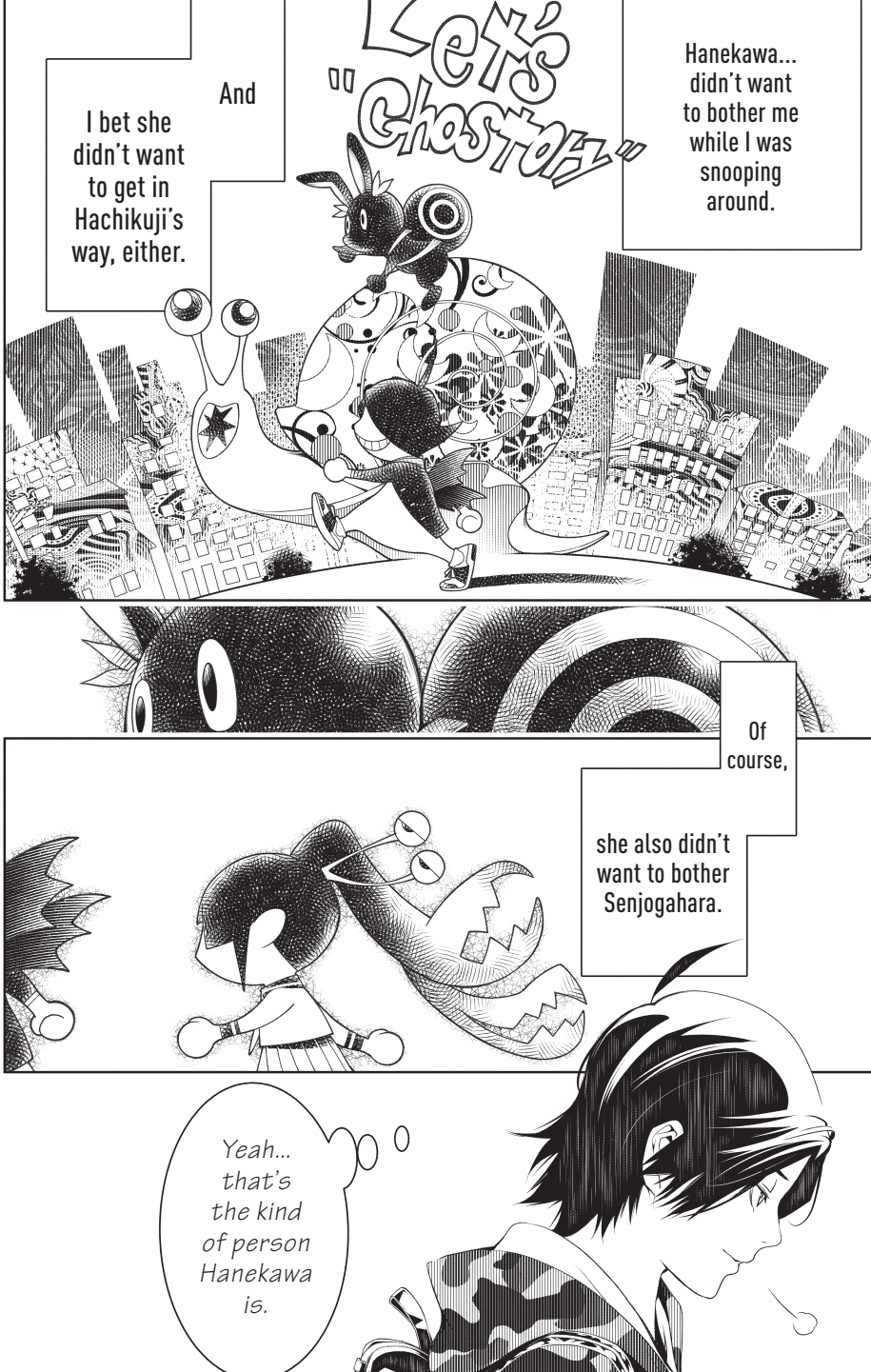

Shopping Str
GIGANTAX
I really didn't do all that much. If anything, you were the one who did all the work.
Even that trick wouldn't have worked without someone who knows the area like you.
Perhaps... well, I guess I helped in a few other ways, too.

LAND
FOR SALE
Contact
(KK) Miracle Realty
Though I was surprised that it was an empty plot of land.
After what happened to their only daughter,
it must have been so unbearable that the whole family moved... or something like that.


But Hanekawa.
though.
We don't even know... if Hachikuji's mother is alive,
I don't know... maybe.

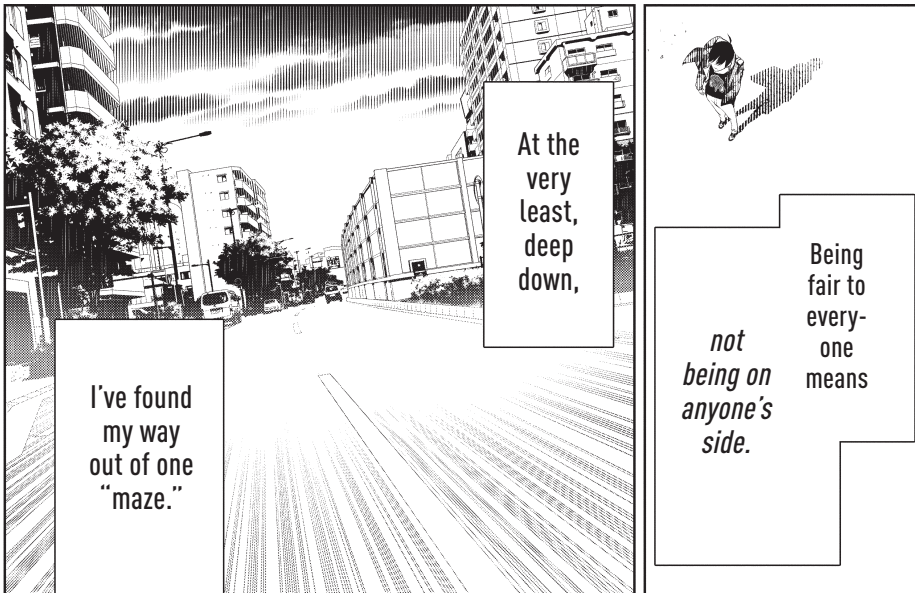

Well, she *might* have.
Hanekawa knew everything.
about the move... and even about Hachikuji's true identity.
About the Tsunade family's tragedy,
In truth, Hanekawa probably knew.

GULP
knowing her.
It does seem possible...
As for the ability to see through it all... Hanekawa just might top that bastard Oshino.
Don't let Senjogahara worry over you too much, okay?

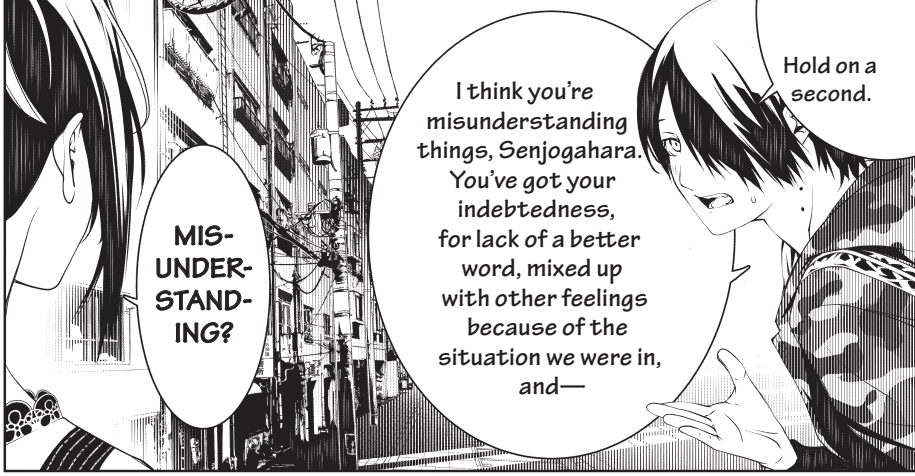

Hanekawa... didn't want to bother me while I was snooping around.
Let's "Ghostify"
And
I bet she didn't want to get in Hachikuji's way, either.
Of course,
she also didn't want to bother Senjogahara.
Yeah... that's the kind of person Hanekawa is.

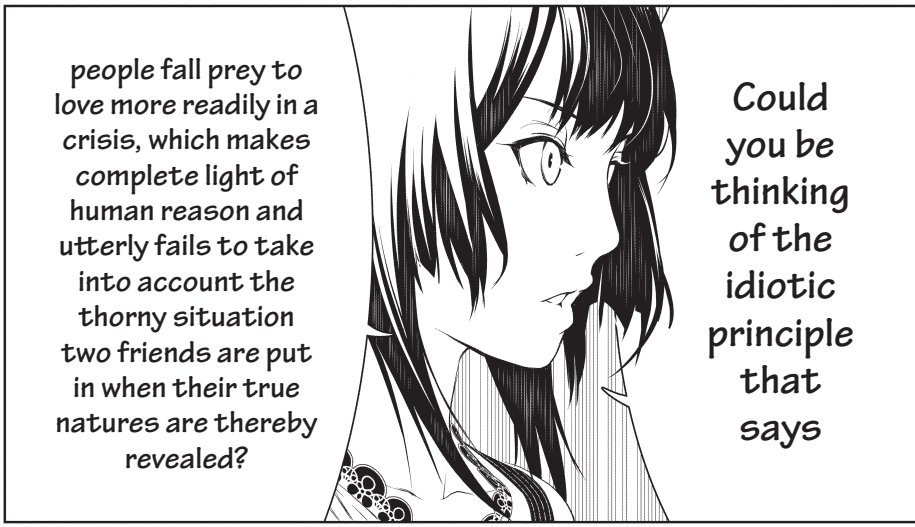
She'll be fair to everyone 'til the very end.
I saw something.
THUNK
I think...
The distance between us is so uncertain that it almost feels like a labyrinth.
Maybe she's just on the other side of the wall that separates us.
Or maybe she's so far away I can't even see her...

But now... I know.
It's as if new, clear paths are being built in my heart.

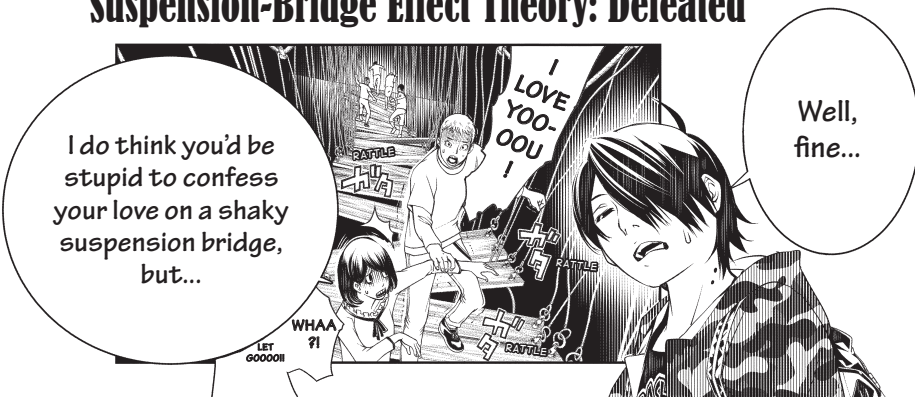

Being fair to everyone means
not being on anyone's side.
At the very least, deep down,
I've found my way out of one "maze."

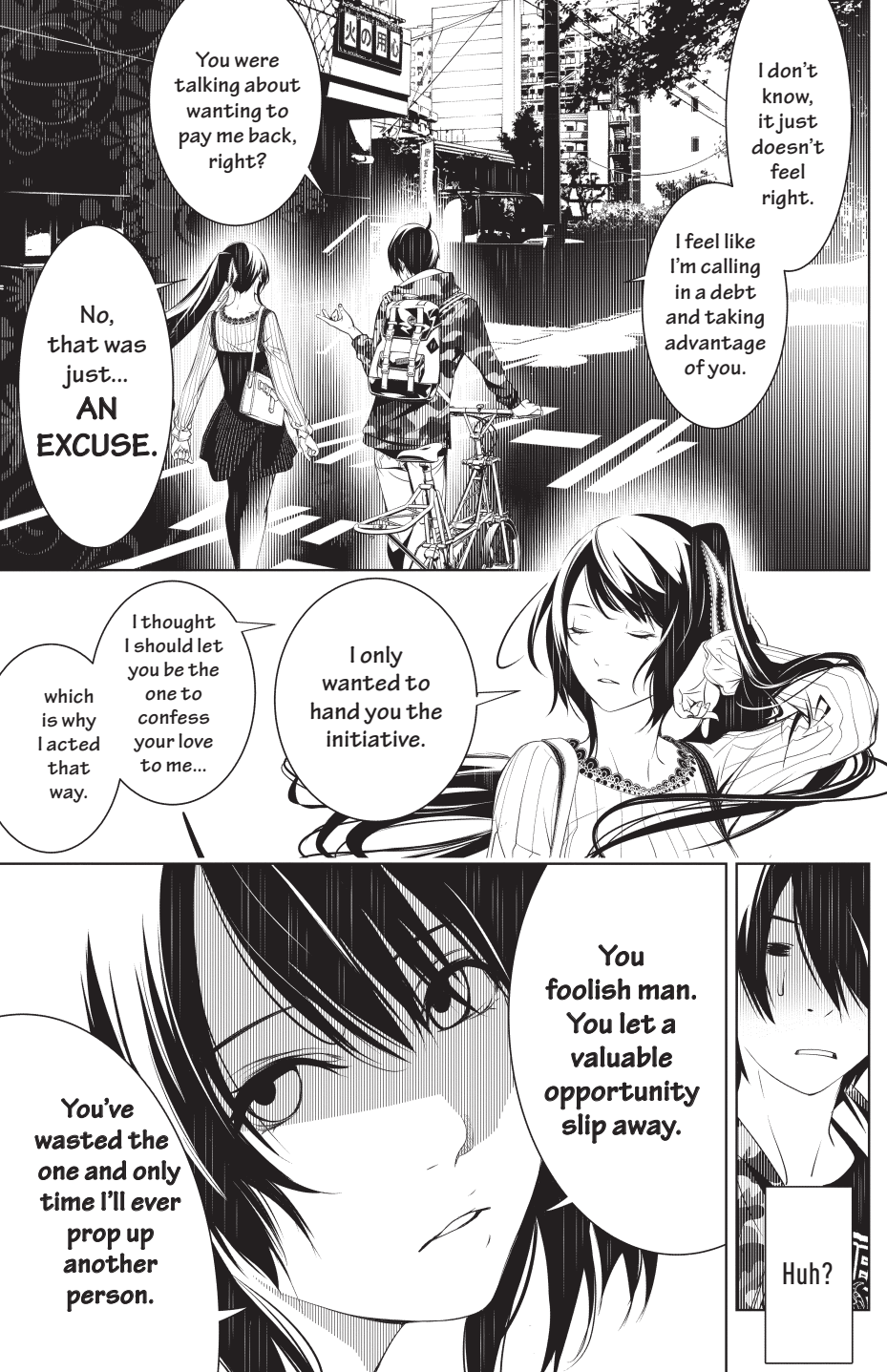
On this road... ahead of me is...
By the way, Araragi,
you still haven't told me how you feel about me, you know.





Suspension-Bridge Effect Theory: Defeated




You were talking about wanting to pay me back, right?
I don't know, it just doesn't feel right.
I feel like I'm calling in a debt and taking advantage of you.
No, that was just... AN EXCUSE.
I thought I should let you be the one to confess your love to me...
which is why I acted that way.
I only wanted to hand you the initiative.
You foolish man. You let a valuable opportunity slip away.
You've wasted the one and only time I'll ever prop up another person.
Huh?

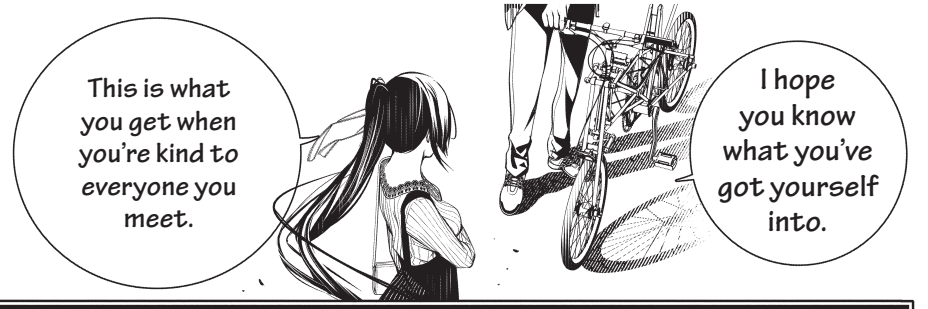
Don't worry, Araragi. I really don't feel that indebted to you.
NO FISHING ZONE
Oh, really ...?
What ...?
I don't know... how to feel about that, either...
But, personally ... I prefer it that way.
Because, Araragi, you'd save anyone.
Yes, even if I watched you save Hanekawa, for example,
I think I'd still find you special.

Okay, that's a bit of an exaggeration,
but I guess I can still admit
that it's fun talking to you.
That's all.
...
But it's not like
we've talked that much...
Mon-day and Tues-day
—
and today. That's it.
Right.

Which is why I want to talk
to you more.
To get to know.
To get to love.
To spend more time together.
I don't think it's any-thing as cheap ...
as love at first sight.

How do I put it? Well...
But I'm not so patient that I want to spend time lining everything up.
maybe it's that I want to make the effort to learn to love you.

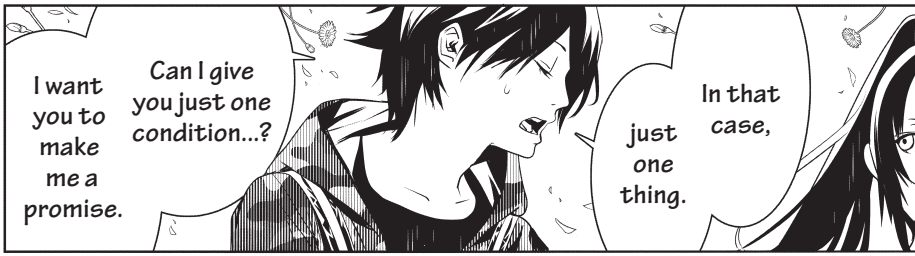
But, Mister Araragi. Isn't the feeling we call love a very conscious thing from the start?
I guess ... that's one way to do it.
Working hard to stay in love, huh.
Well...
THOK

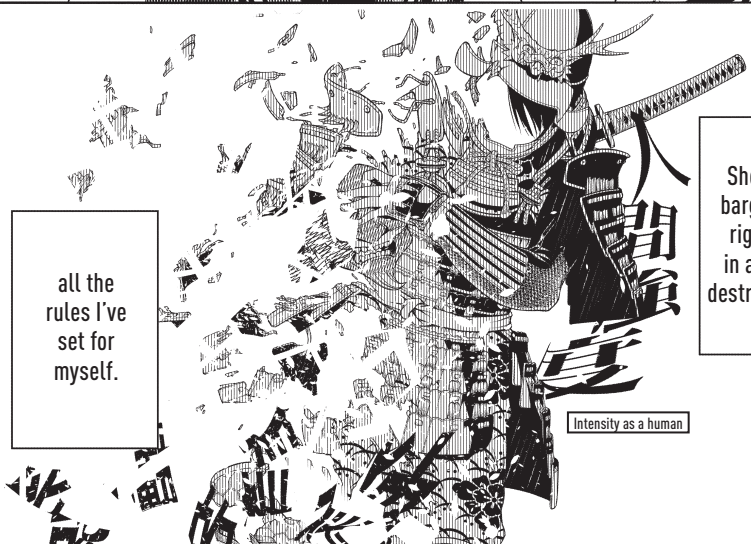


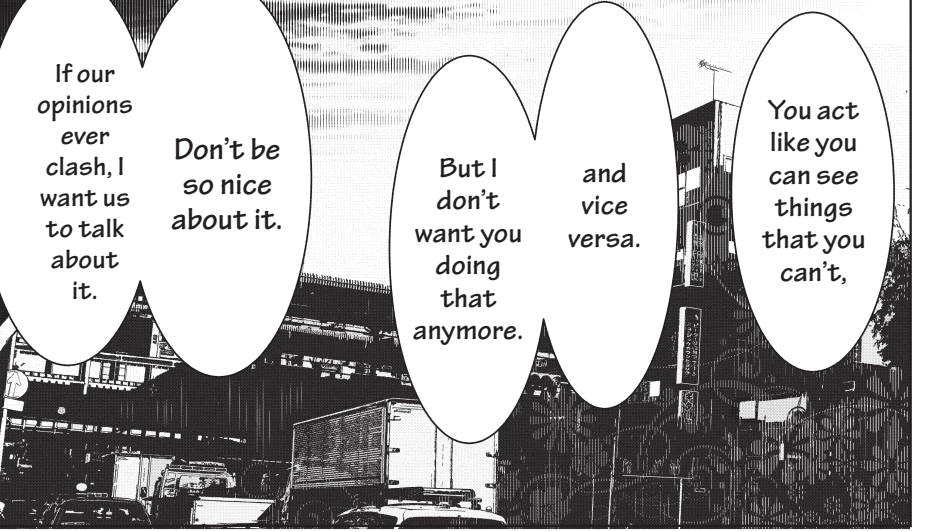
Think of it as getting mixed up with a foul woman.

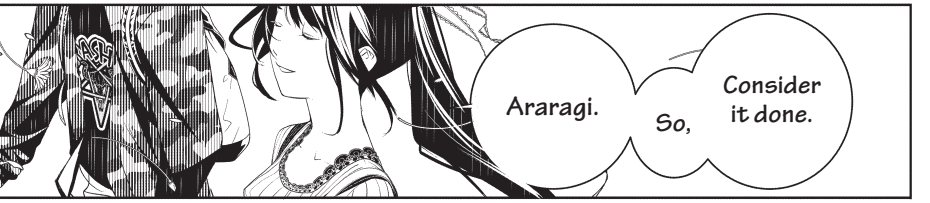
She's a funny one.

She really is.





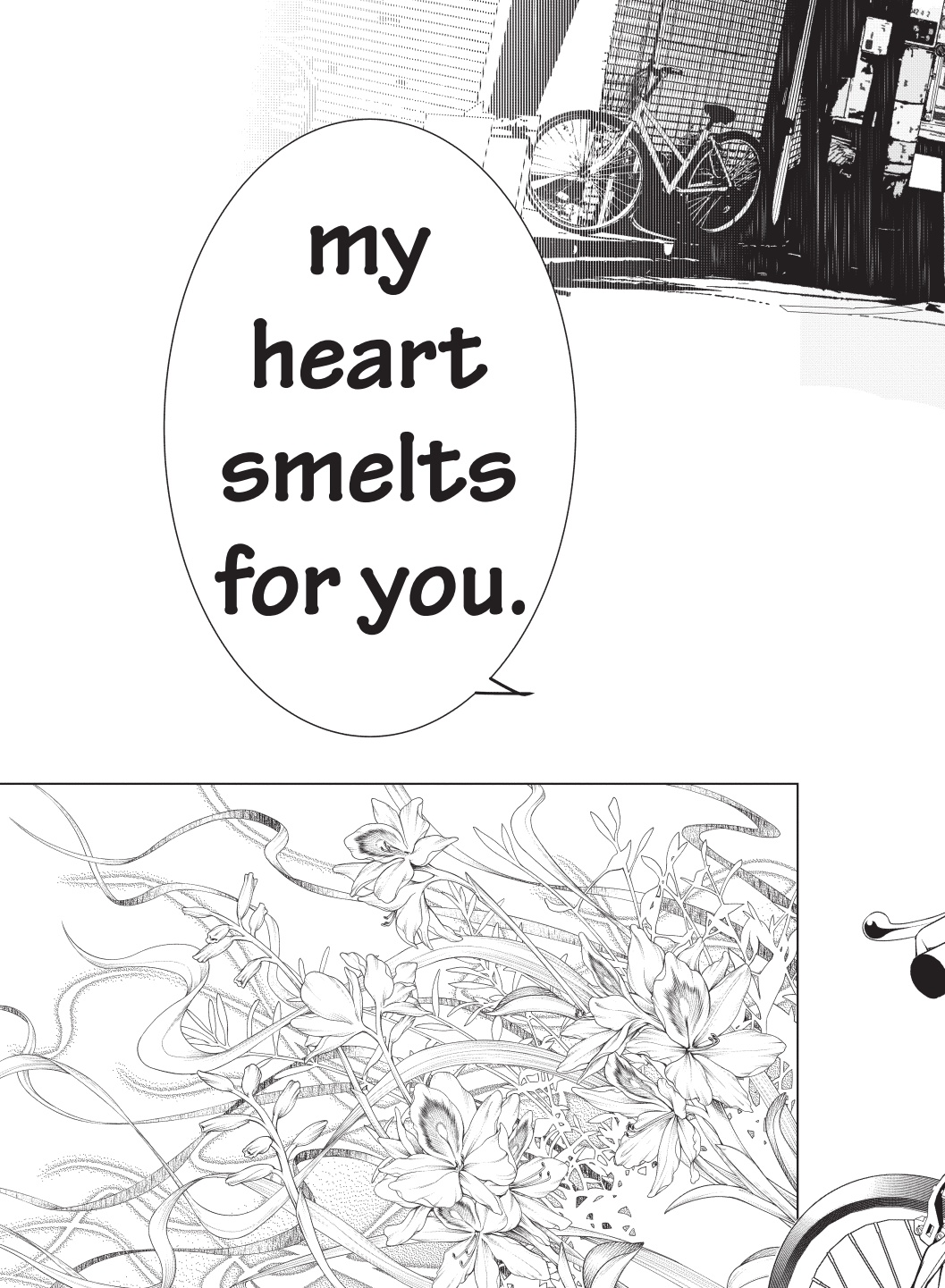

You act like you can see things that you can't,
and vice versa.
But I don't want you doing that anymore.
Don't be so nice about it.
If our opinions ever clash, I want us to talk about it.

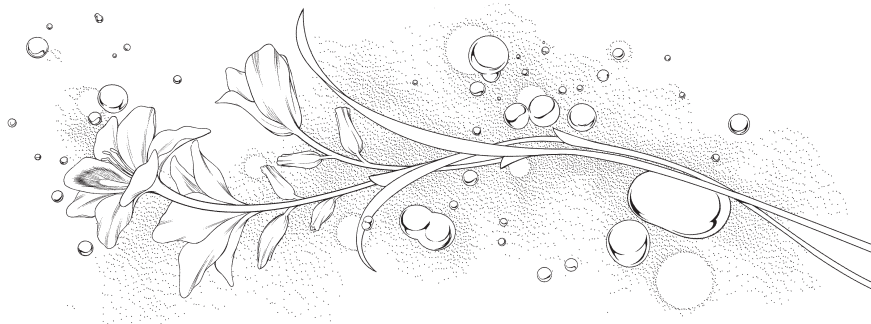

Consider it done.
So,
Araragi.

Do you think
you could say it... out loud for me?

I do hope it catches on.
Huh?

Senjo-
gahara,


my
heart
smelts
for you.



Continued in Volume 4

Preview

BAKEMONOGATARI 4

Koyomi has sent Mayoi on her way

and accepted Hitagi's feelings for him.

Just as they set forth

on their new paths,

Naoetsu Town Map

Next Volume

a monkey blocks their way. "Suruga Monkey" begins.

COMING MAY 2020!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

BAKEMONOGATARI volume 3 copyright © 2018 NISHIOISHIN, Oh!great
English translation copyright © 2020 NISHIOISHIN, Oh!great

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2018 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781646594481

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Ko Ransom
Production: Grace Lu
Hiroko Mizuno
Editor: Kristi Fernandez